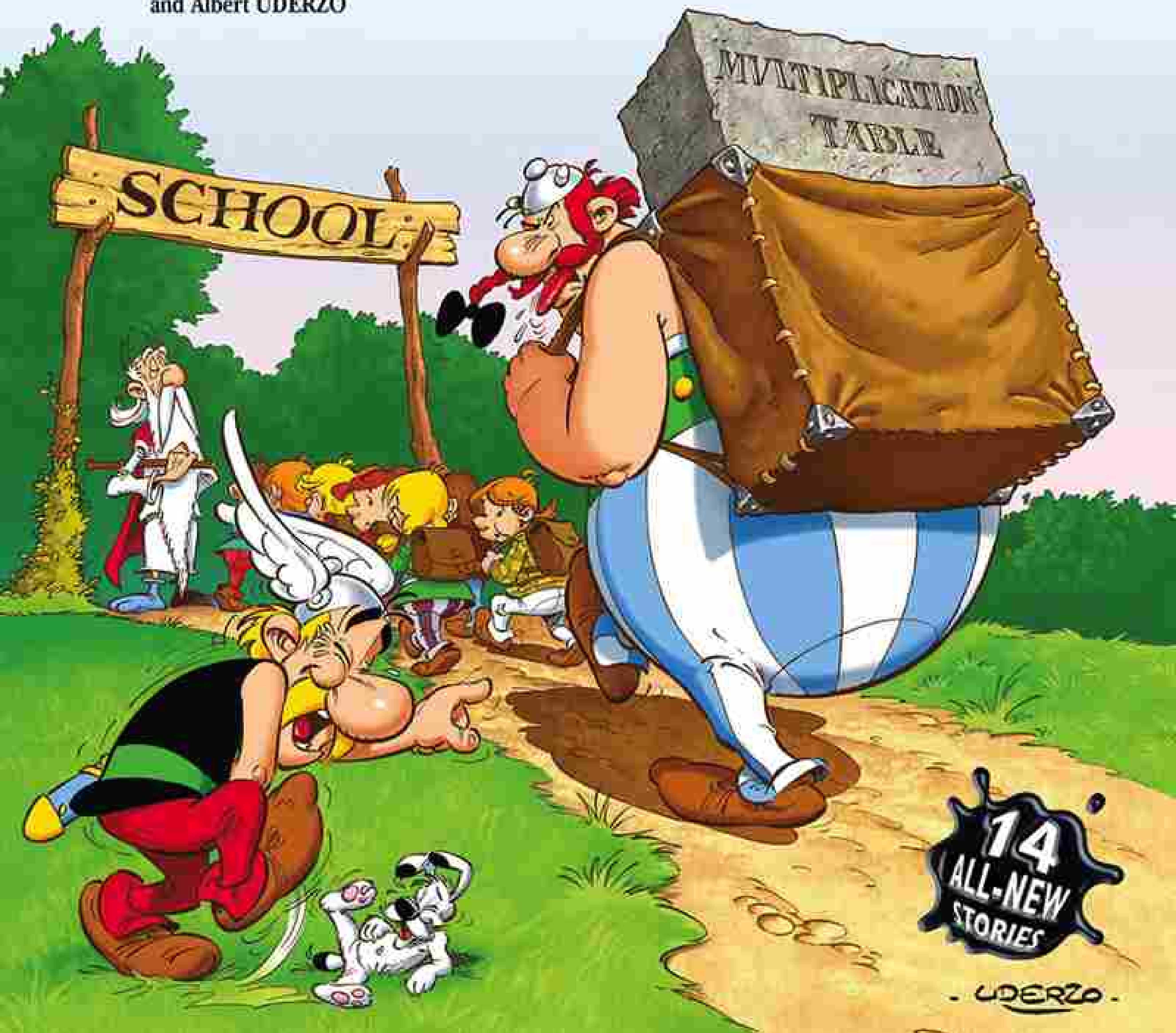


R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix *and* *the class act*

Written by René GOSCINNY
and Albert UDERZO

Illustrated by Albert UDERZO



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

PRESENT

Fourteen all-new Asterix stories

Asterix

and the class act

Written by RENÉ GOSCINNY
and ALBERT UDERZO

Illustrated by ALBERT UDERZO



Translated by ANTHEA BELL *and* DEREK HOCKRIDGE



The French publisher's note

During the 1960s, when René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo had time to spare from writing and drawing the longer Asterix adventures . . . which was not very often . . . they produced some little masterpieces in the form of complete short stories. The French magazine "Pilote", enjoyed by a whole generation of children, in which the Asterix stories first appeared, published most but not all of them. Others appeared in such places as American newspapers, a women's magazine, and as part of a bid for the Olympic Games to be held in Paris. It seemed a good idea to collect all these short stories in a special Asterix album — in fact here at Les Éditions Albert René, we were receiving such terrible threats that we absolutely had to do it. If we didn't publish them, said readers, they would make us eat roast boar for breakfast! So we gave in to the outrageous demands of certain blackmailers whose identity we shall have to reveal one of these days.

But for the moment, having brought these lost treasures to light, we hope you will enjoy reading them. Some of the stories in this book are both written and illustrated by Albert on his own, because they were created after the death in 1977 of his friend and colleague, the other half of the most famous strip cartoon team in the world: René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo.

None of these stories had been published in English before, although several were included in our 1993 collection (see page 47 for the full story).

Seeing his publishers absorbed in the difficult but fascinating task of collecting the stories and improving the original picture quality for "Asterix and the Class Act", Albert set to work again. And in the spring of 2003 he produced the cover design and the words and drawings for a brand-new five-page story, about a cockerel with amazing powers. Will the rooster who wakes the Gauls every morning rouse the children of today to get up and go to school for their own class act?

AN ORION CHILDREN'S EBOOK

Original title: *Astérix et la rentrée gauloise*

Original edition © 2003 Les Éditions Albert René / Goscinny-Uderzo

English translation © 2003 Les Éditions Albert René / Goscinny-Uderzo

This eBook first published in 2014 by Orion Children's Books

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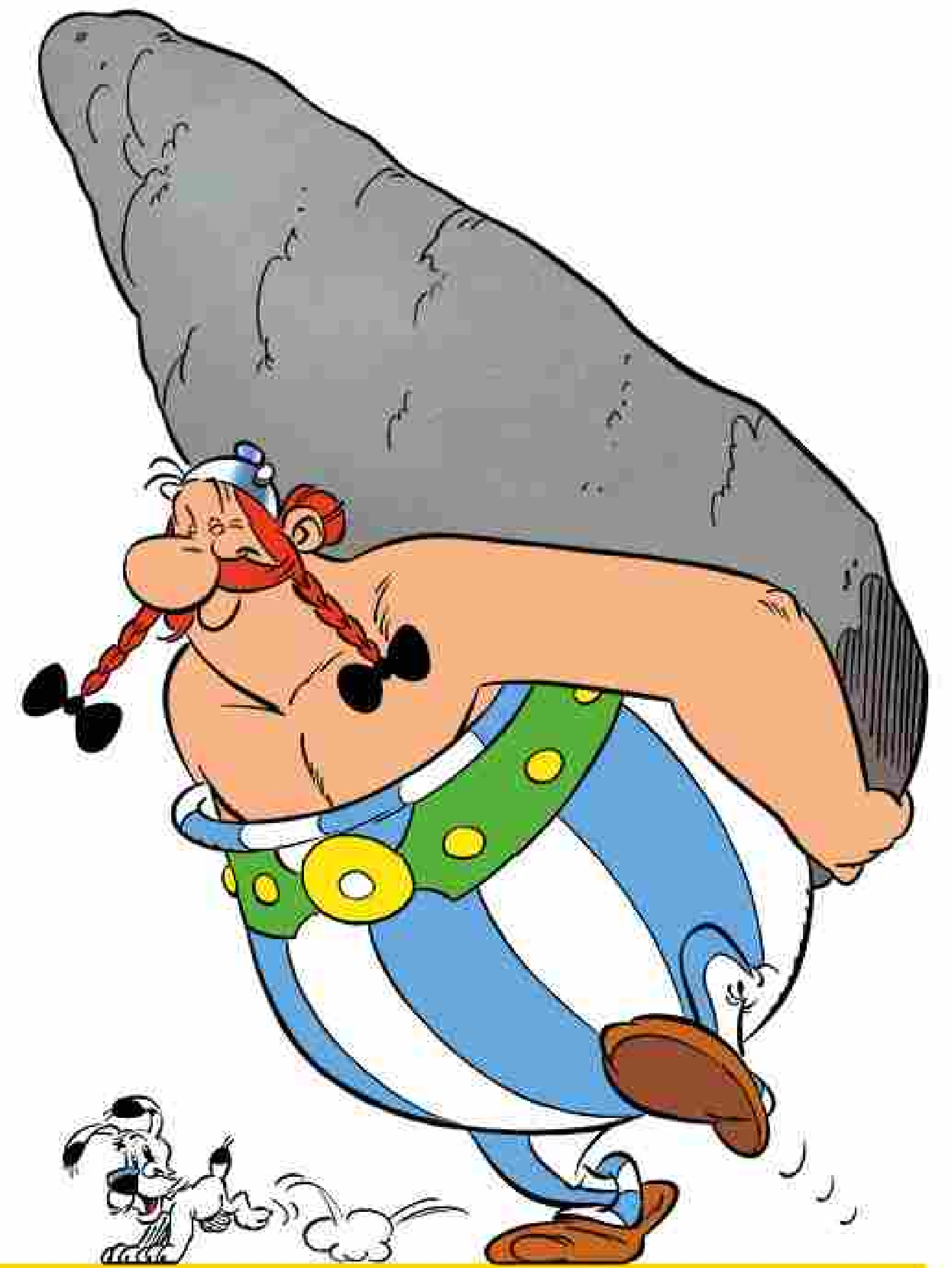
www.asterix.com www.orionbooks.co.uk



THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY ... ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM ...



ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX . . .



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND. A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX – SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



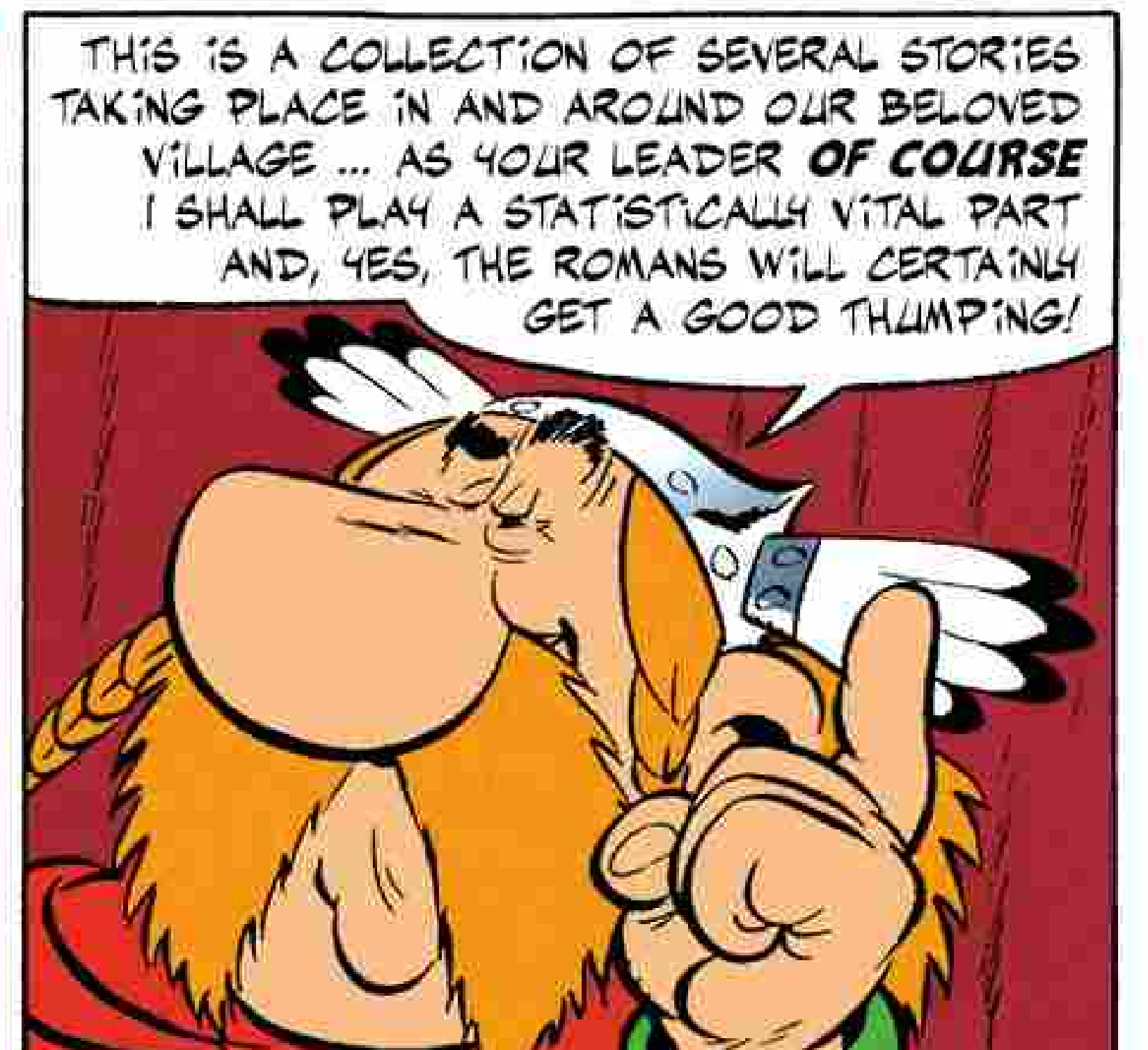
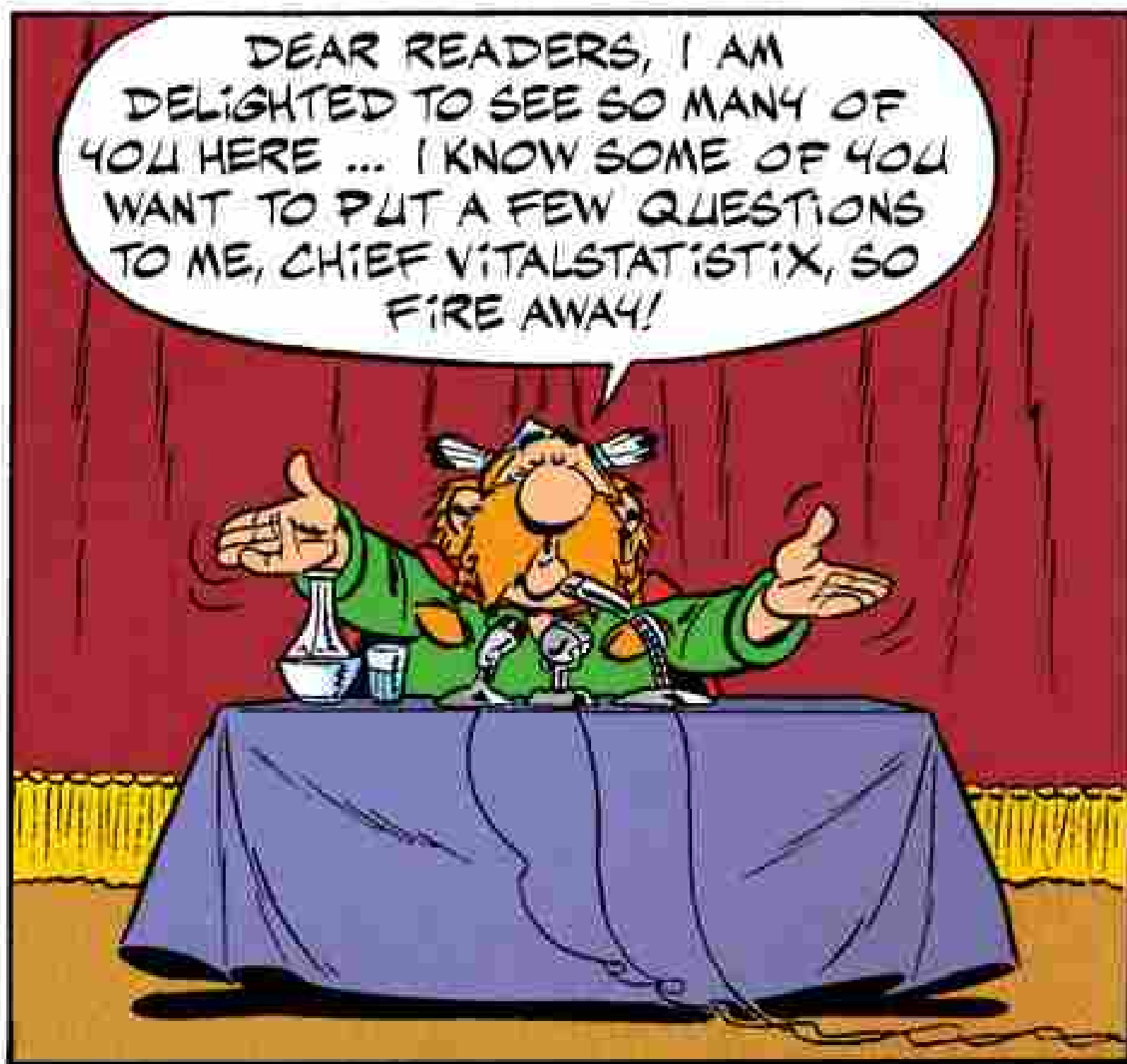
GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE . . .



CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM . . .



FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.



Asterix and the class act

06 October 1966

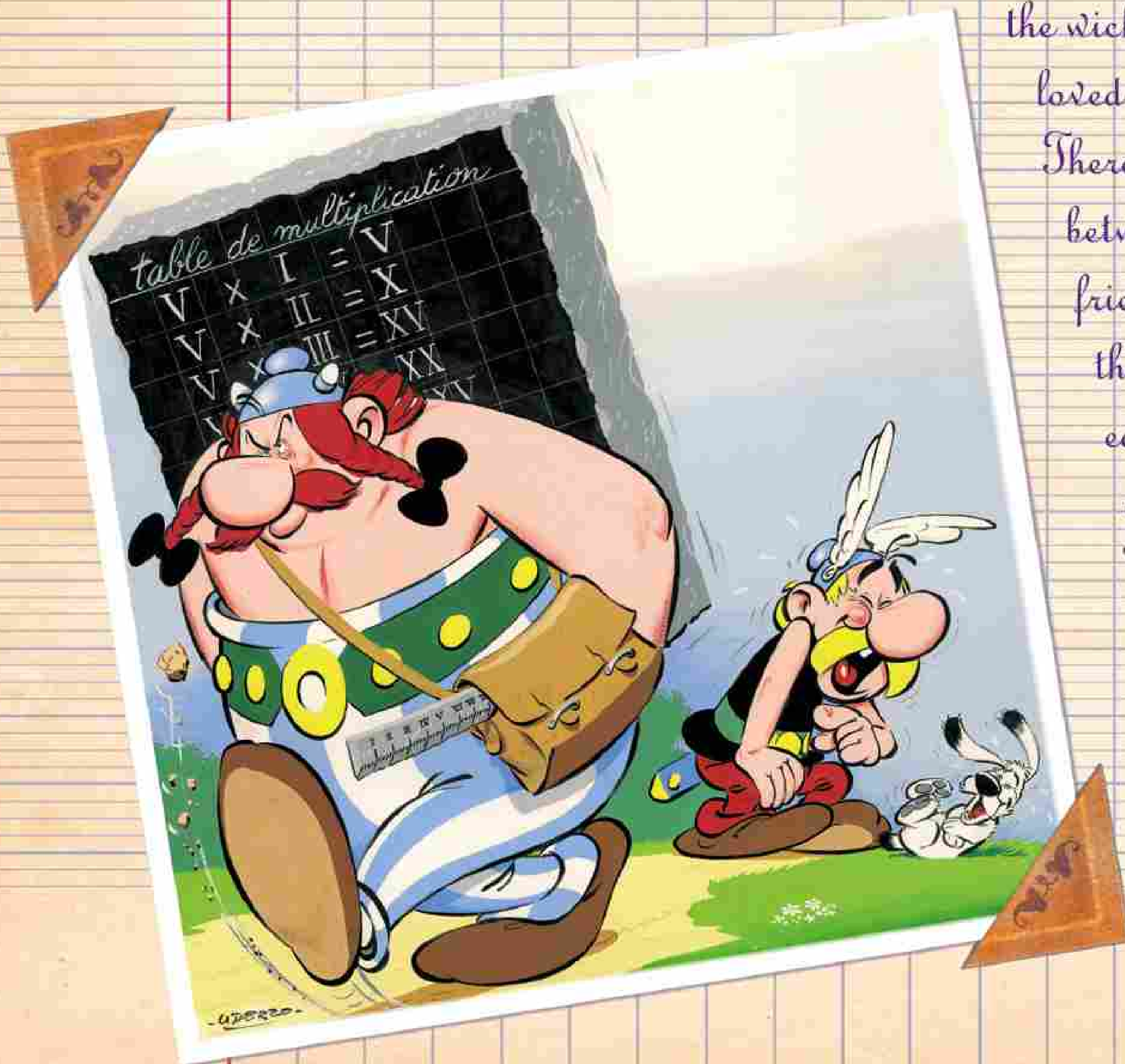
Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

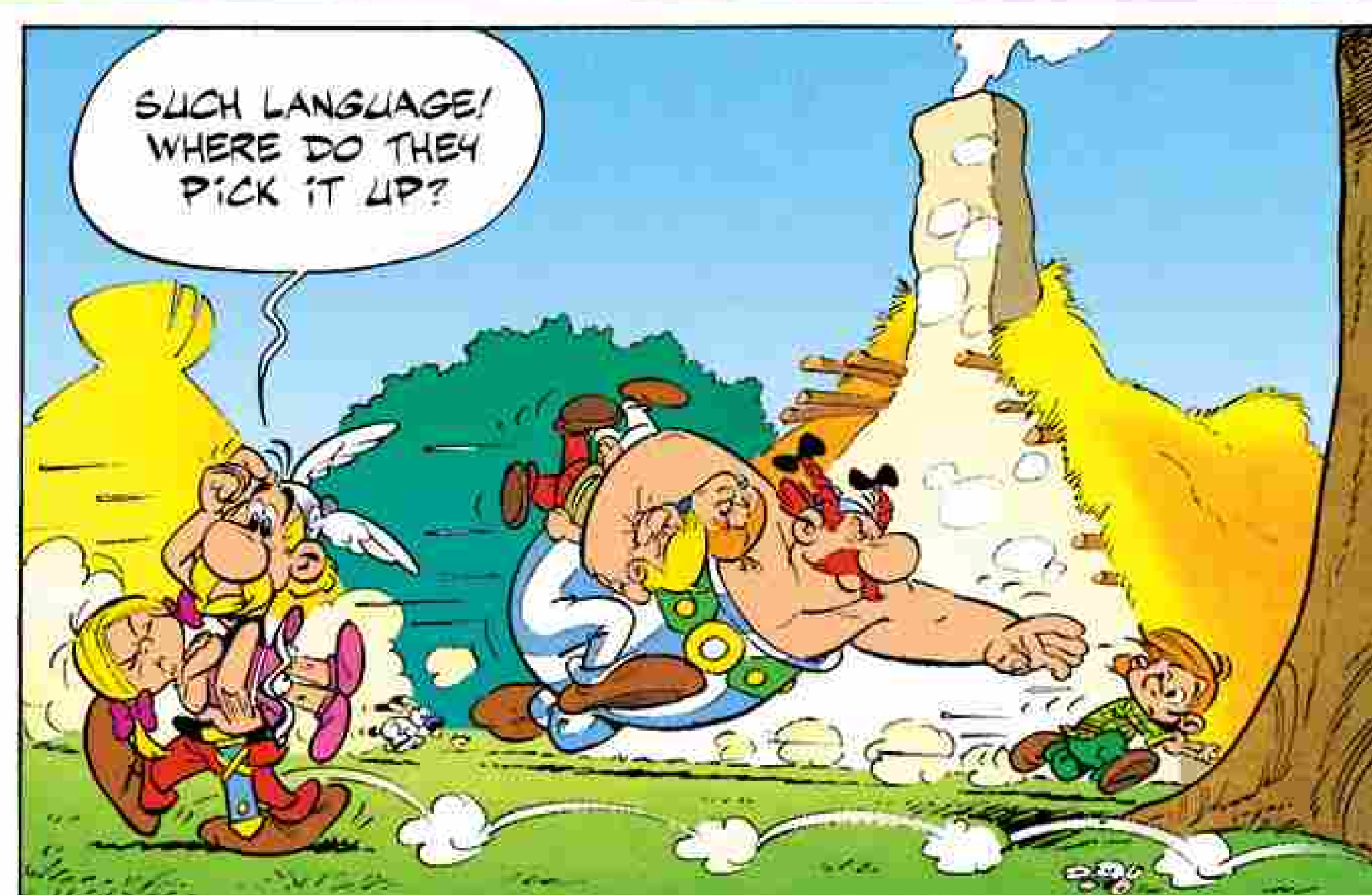
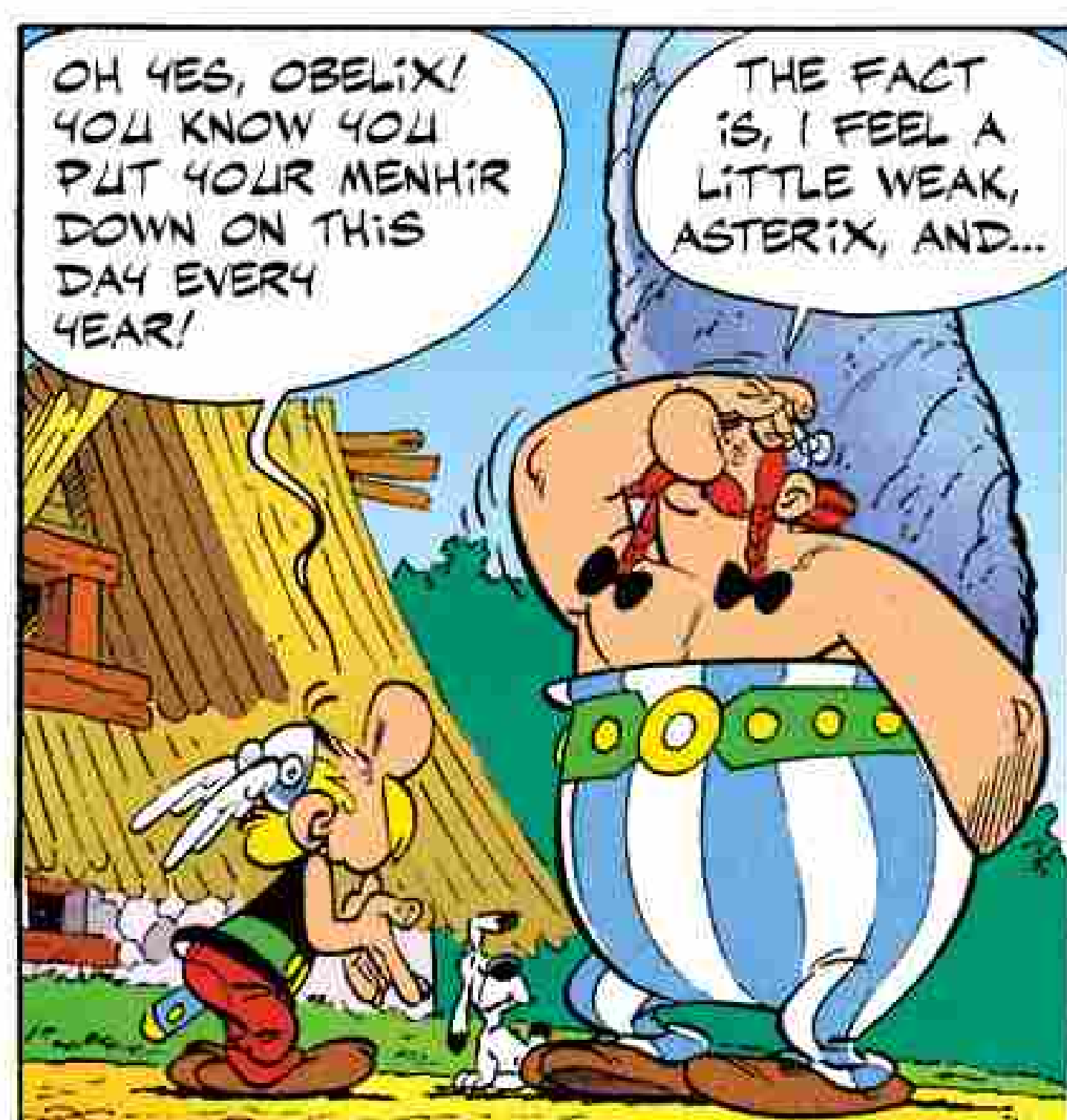
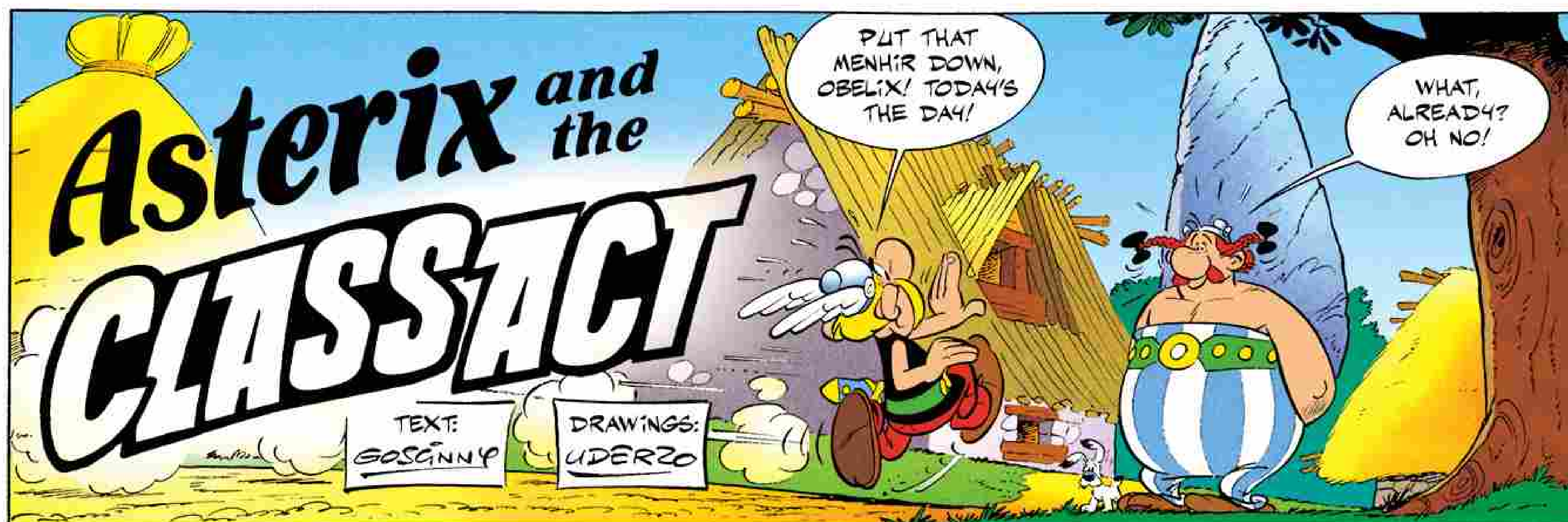
The magazine "Pilote" published 52 issues a year, so the editorial team had to rack its brains to think up new stories every week.

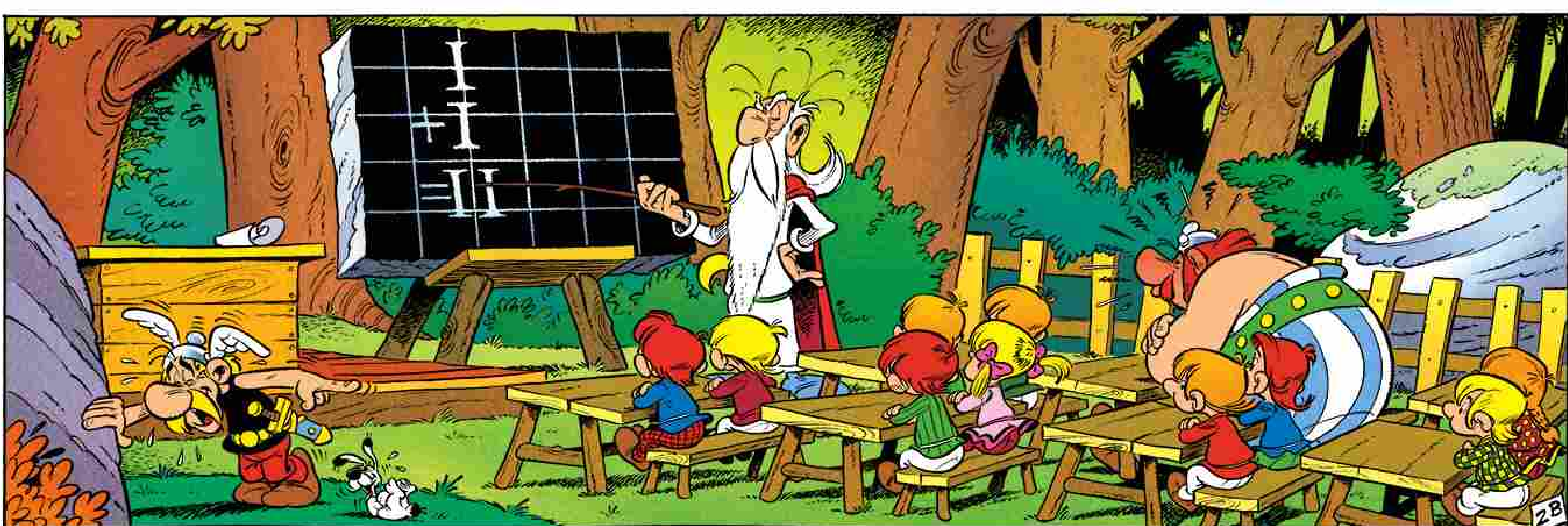
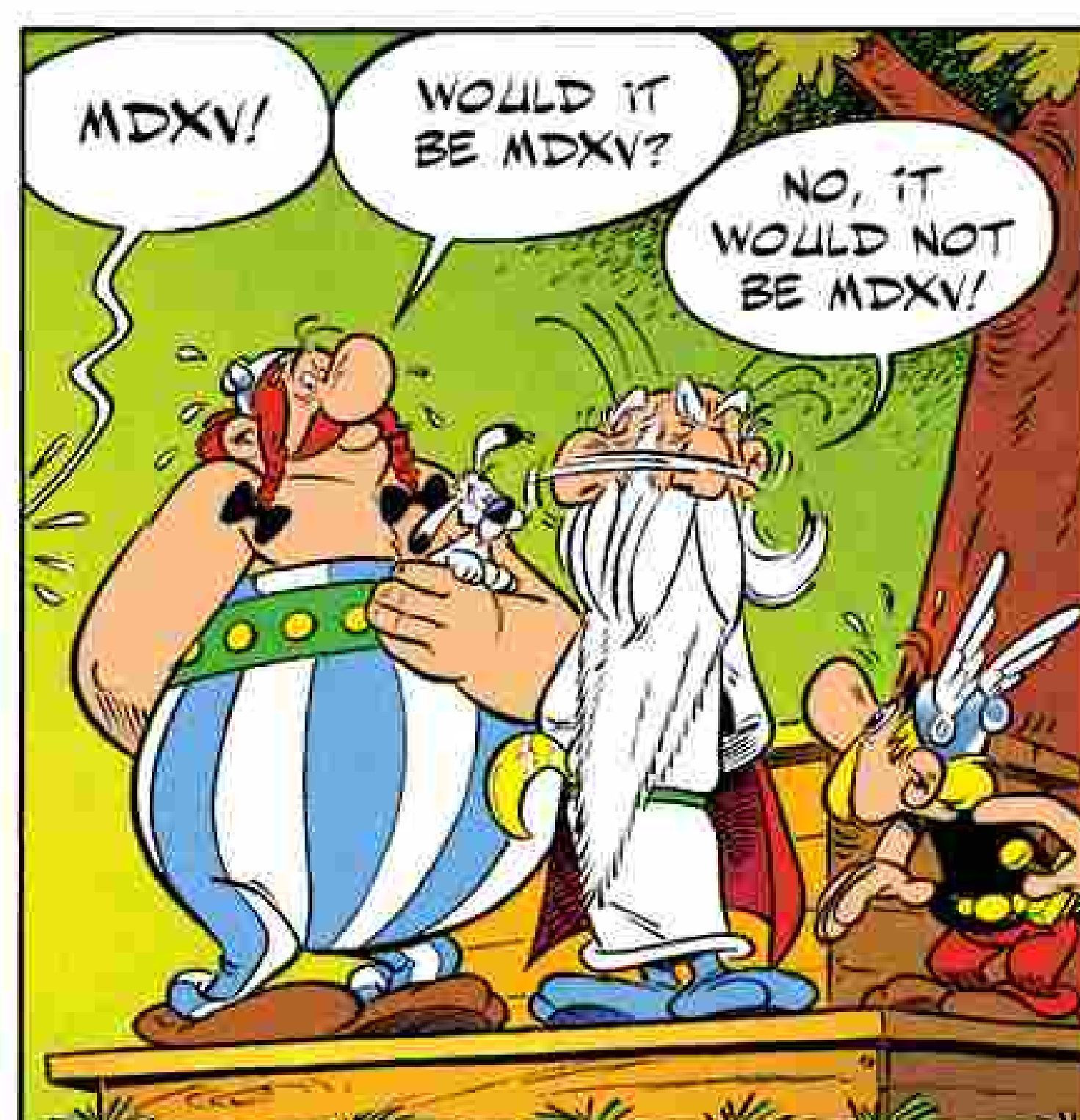
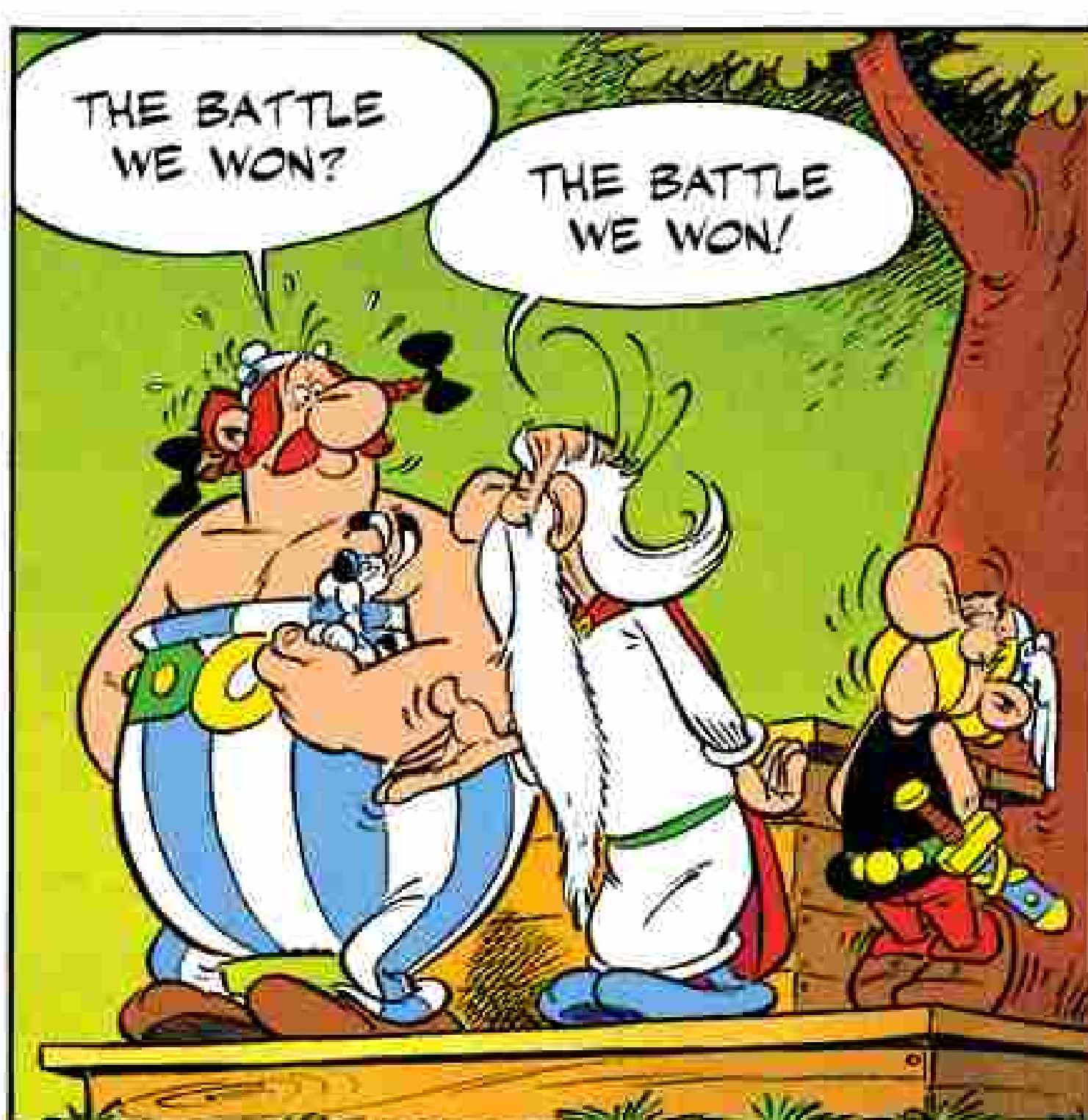
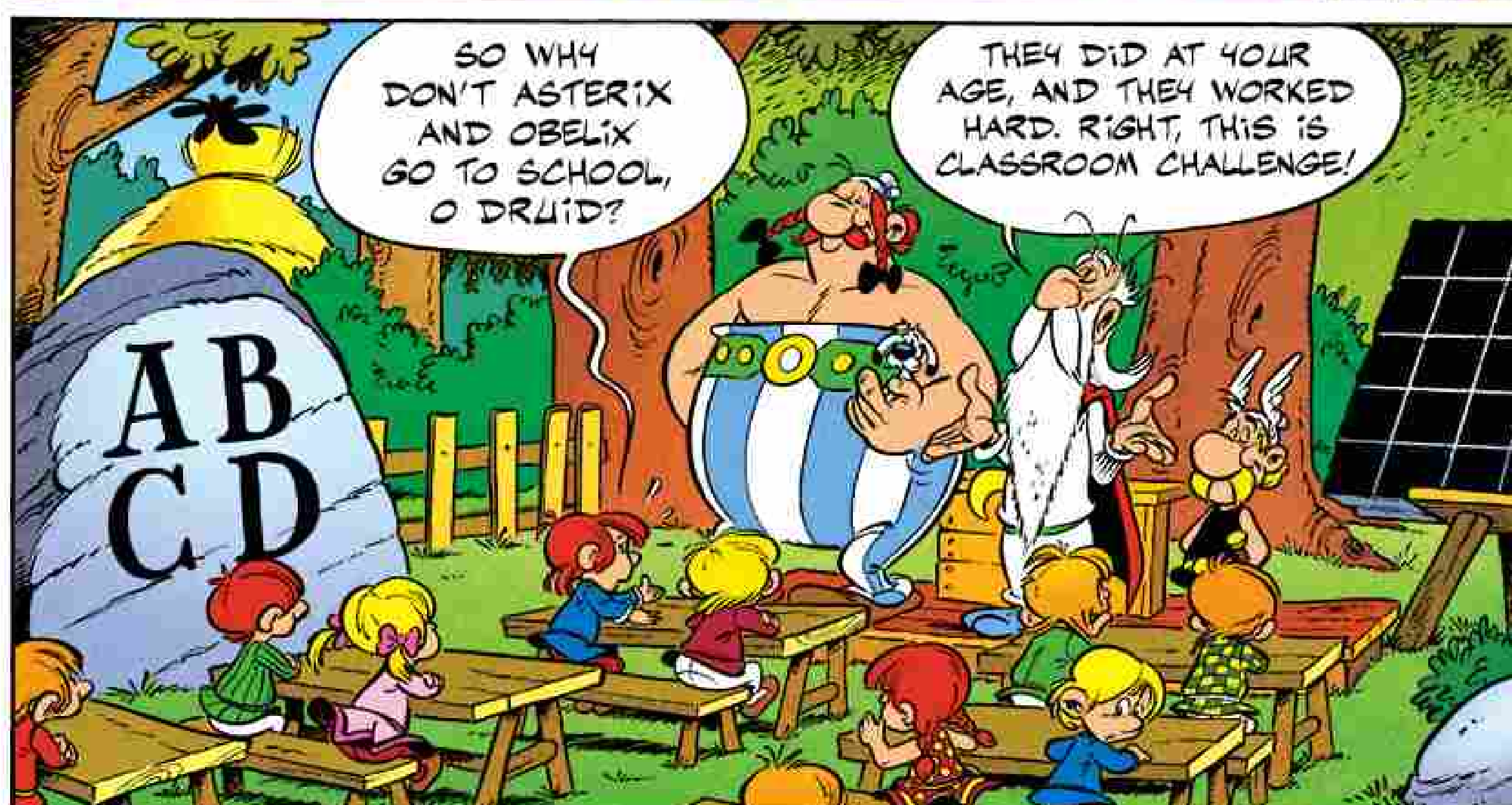
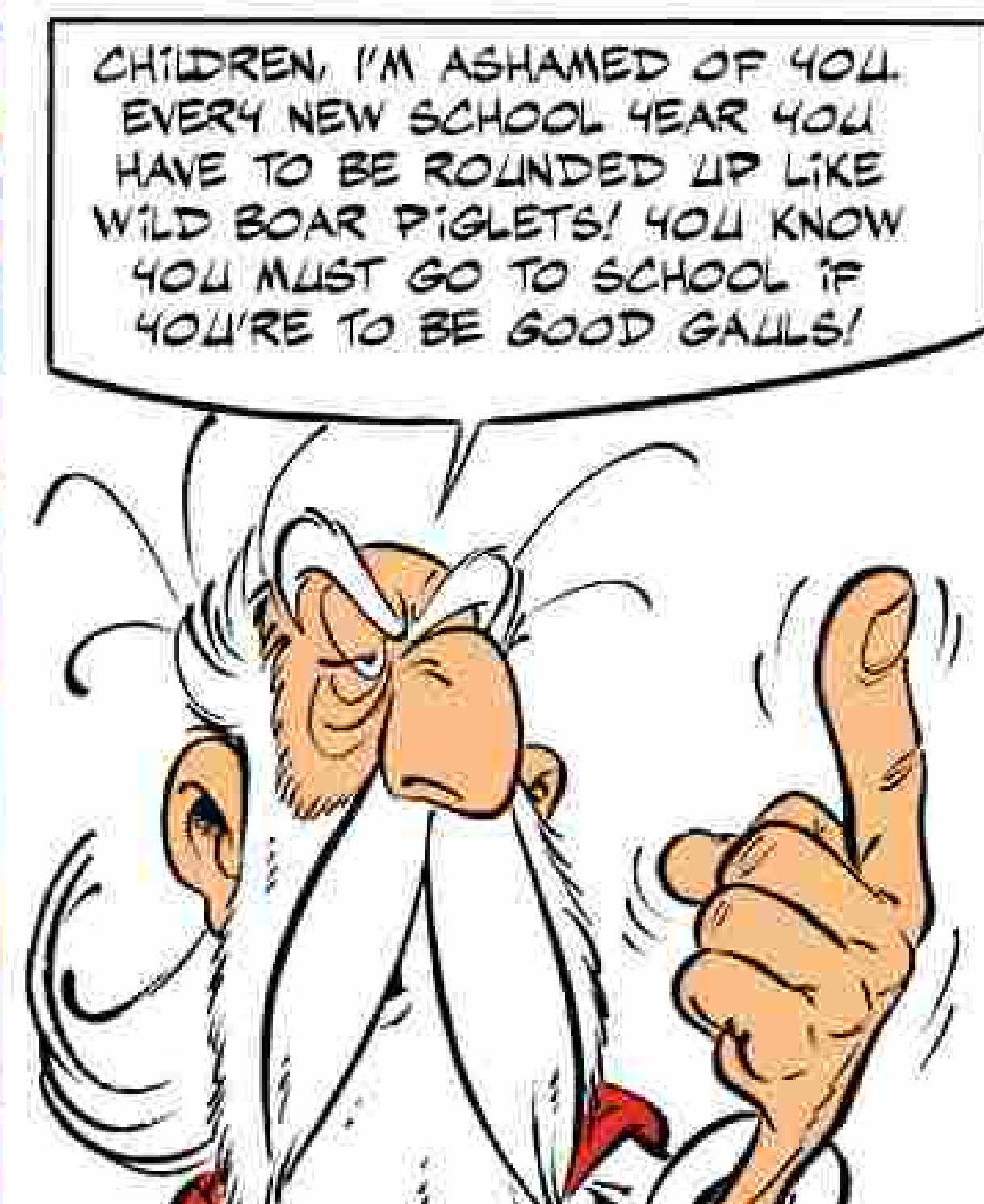
When the beginning of the new school year came round, it seemed an ideal subject. René and Albert thought about the logistical problems facing the Gauls in getting their children to school. Here we see them, rather in advance of their time, using the equivalent of the school bus in the year 50 BC. René sat down at his typewriter and soon sent Albert the text. "One of René's talents," Albert Uderzo still remembers, "was a gift for adapting his stories for different artists. Morris hated wordplay, so René didn't use it in the "Lucky Luke" cowboy stories that Morris illustrated. Tabary, who illustrated René's stories about the wicked Arabian Nights vizier "Iznogoud", loved puns, so those books are full of them." There was total sympathy and understanding between René and Albert, who were great friends and equal partners. They never felt the slightest anxiety about the quality of each other's work. The cover of the magazine "Pilote" was created by Albert.



"Pilote", n° 363







The birth of Asterix October 1994

Written and illustrated by Albert Uderzo

To celebrate 35 years of Asterix stories, we decided to publish an Asterix Special for the little Gaul's birthday, a one-off magazine in the spirit of "Pilote" in the 1960s. We got together famous names and European authors who wanted to pay tribute to Asterix and his friends. As part of our project, of course, we hoped for a new Asterix story.

It was in a plane bound for Copenhagen in the spring of 1994 that Albert Uderzo told us, with relish, about his idea for an original story to celebrate the birthday. He was already looking forward to revealing the secret of the birth of Asterix and Obelix, and at the same time he told us the names of the elder generation: Asterix's parents Astronomix and Sarsaparilla, and Obelix's father and mother Obeliscoidix and Vanilla.

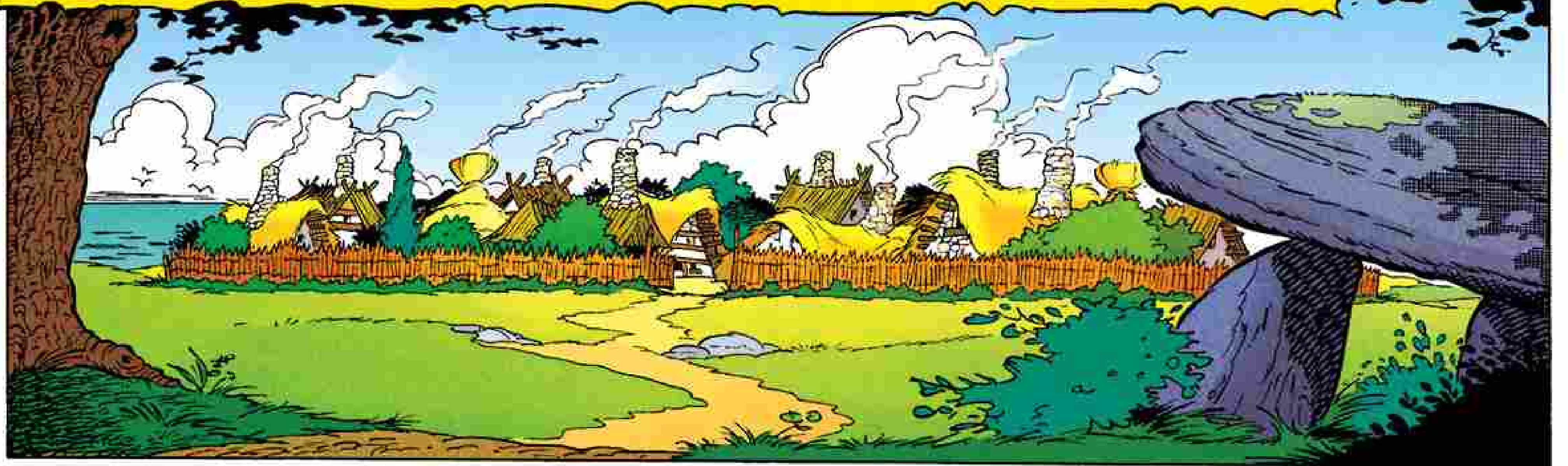
"Le Journal exceptionnel d'Astérix"



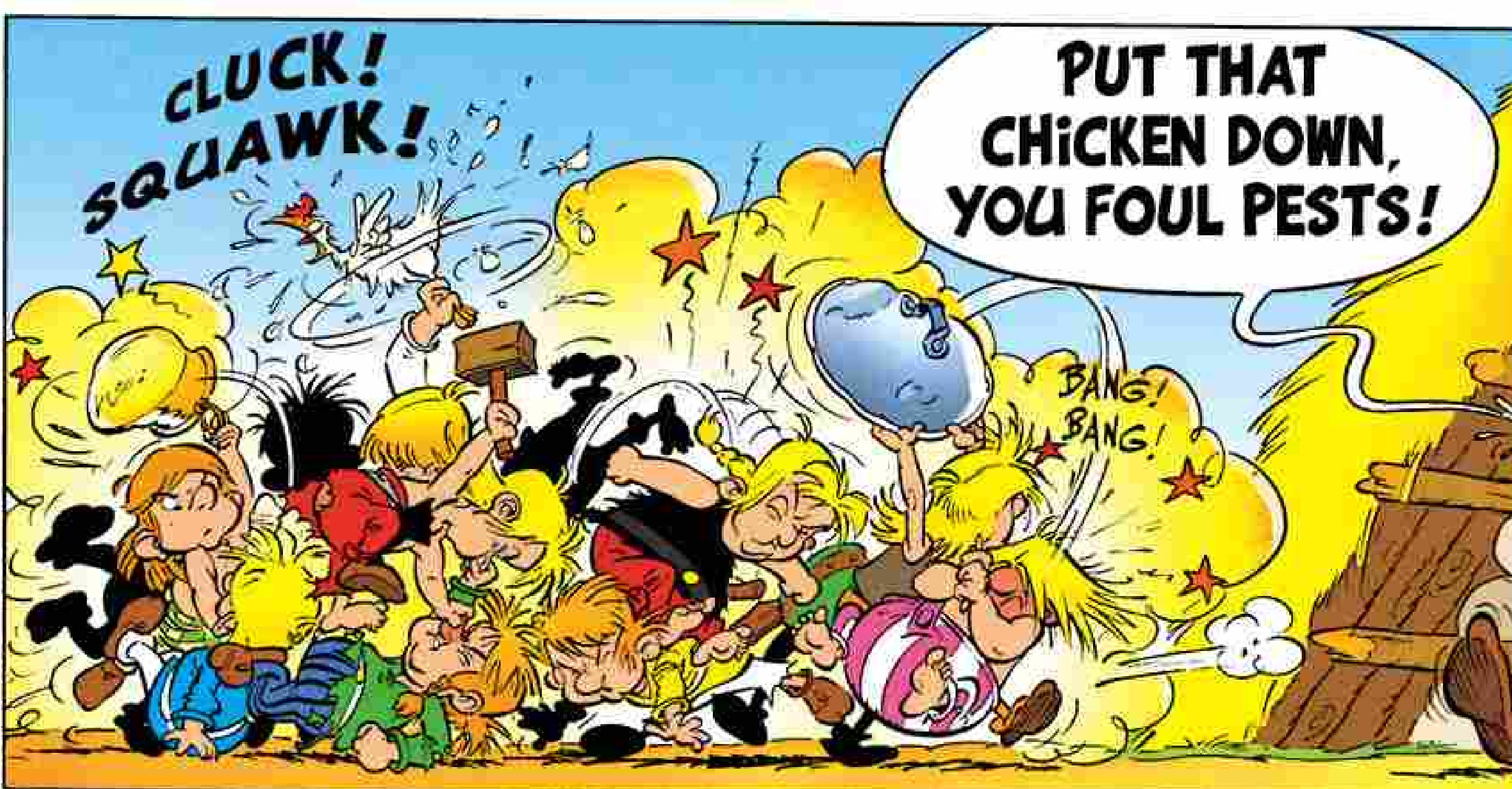
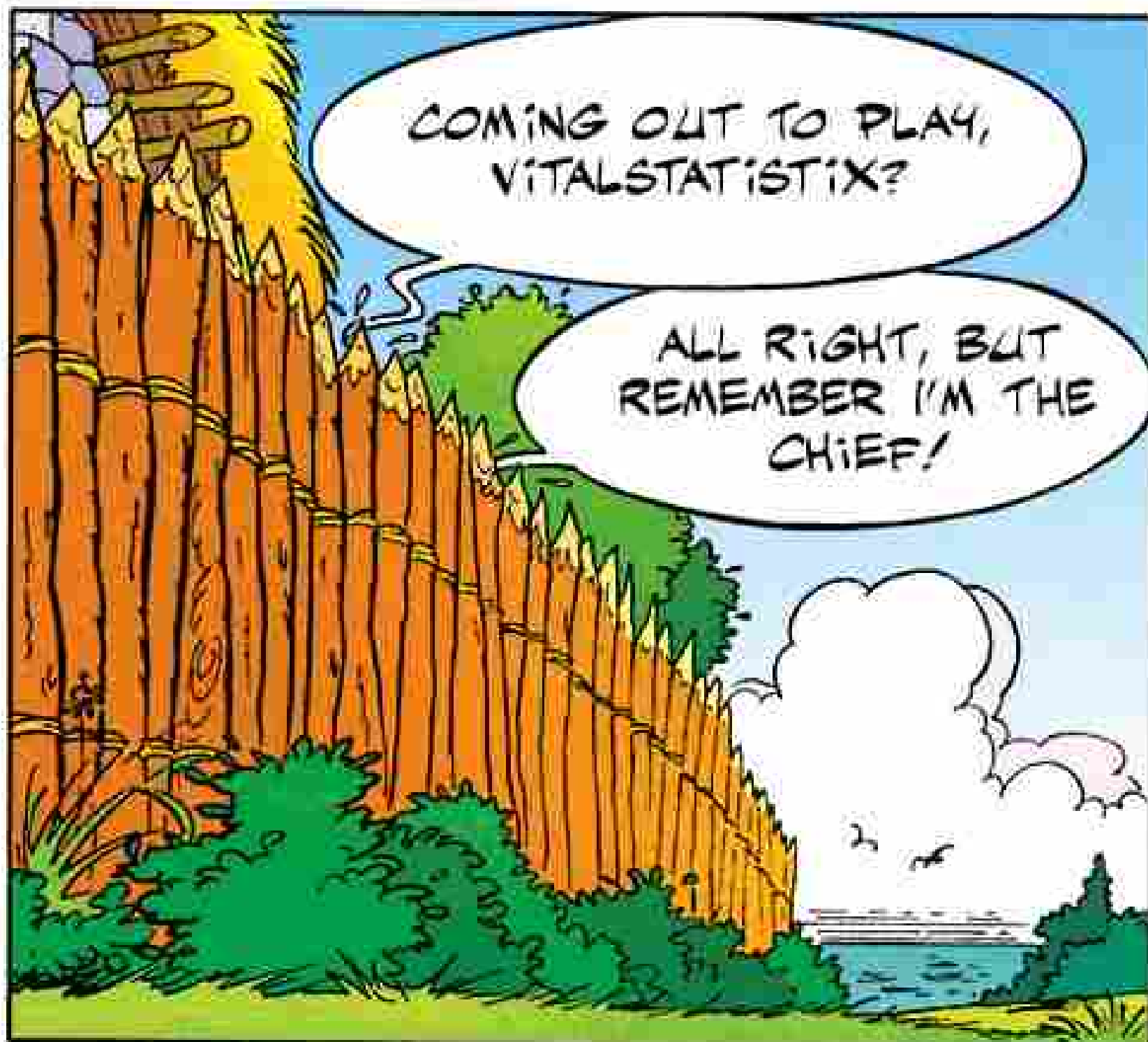
IN THE year 35 B.C.*

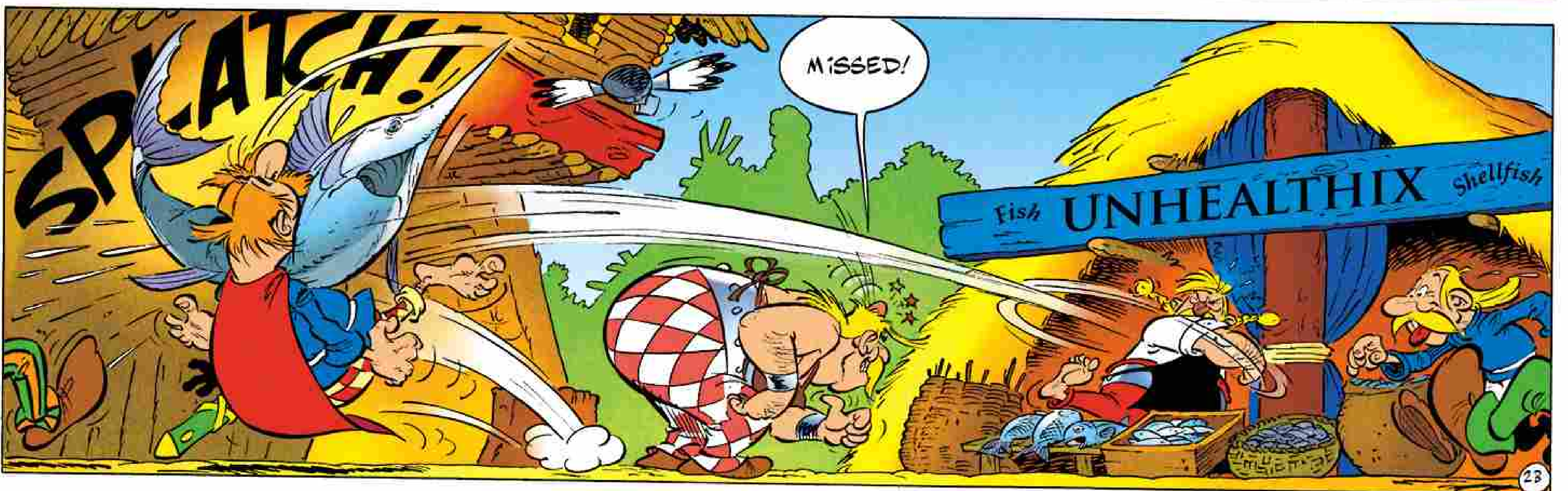
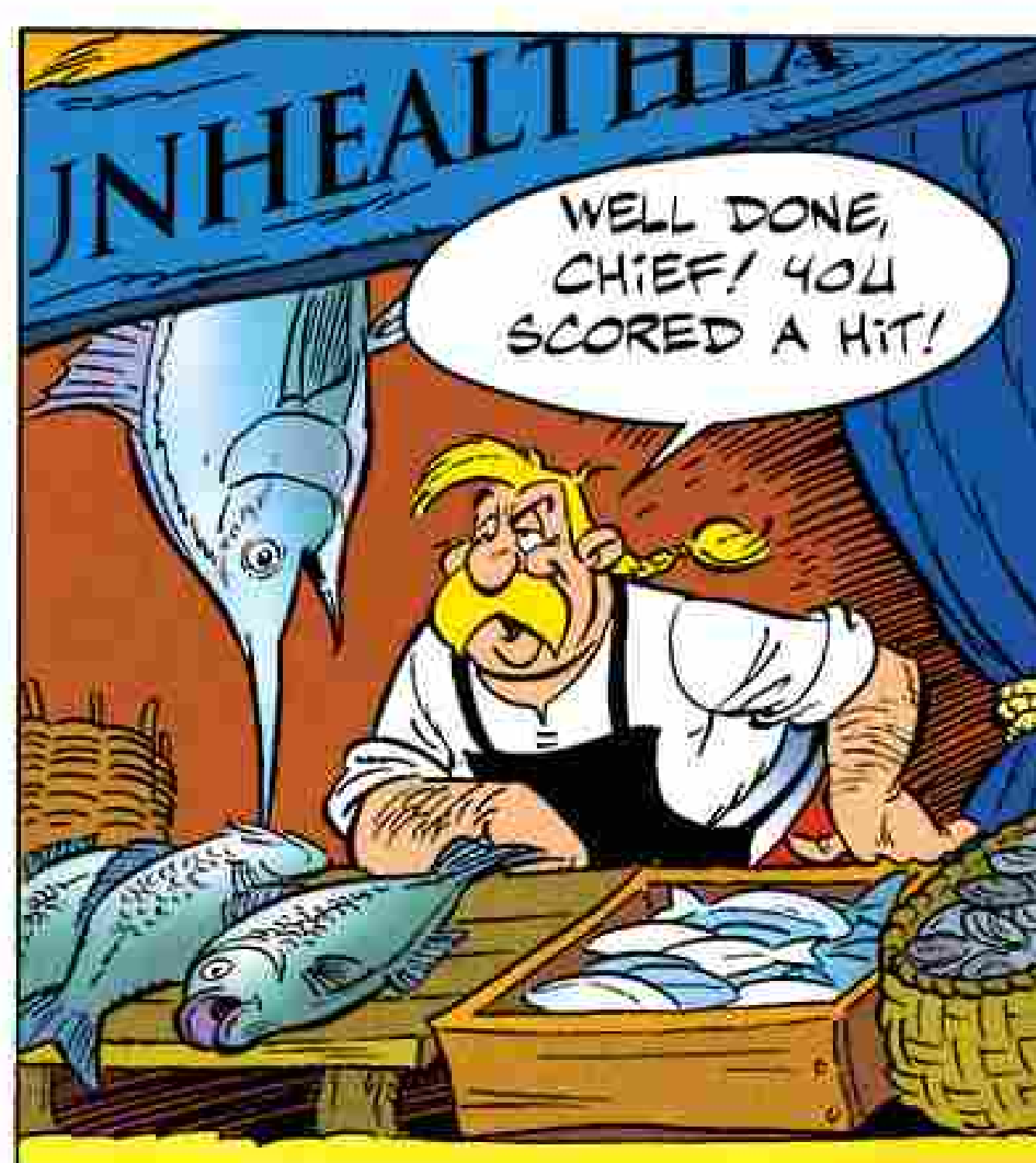
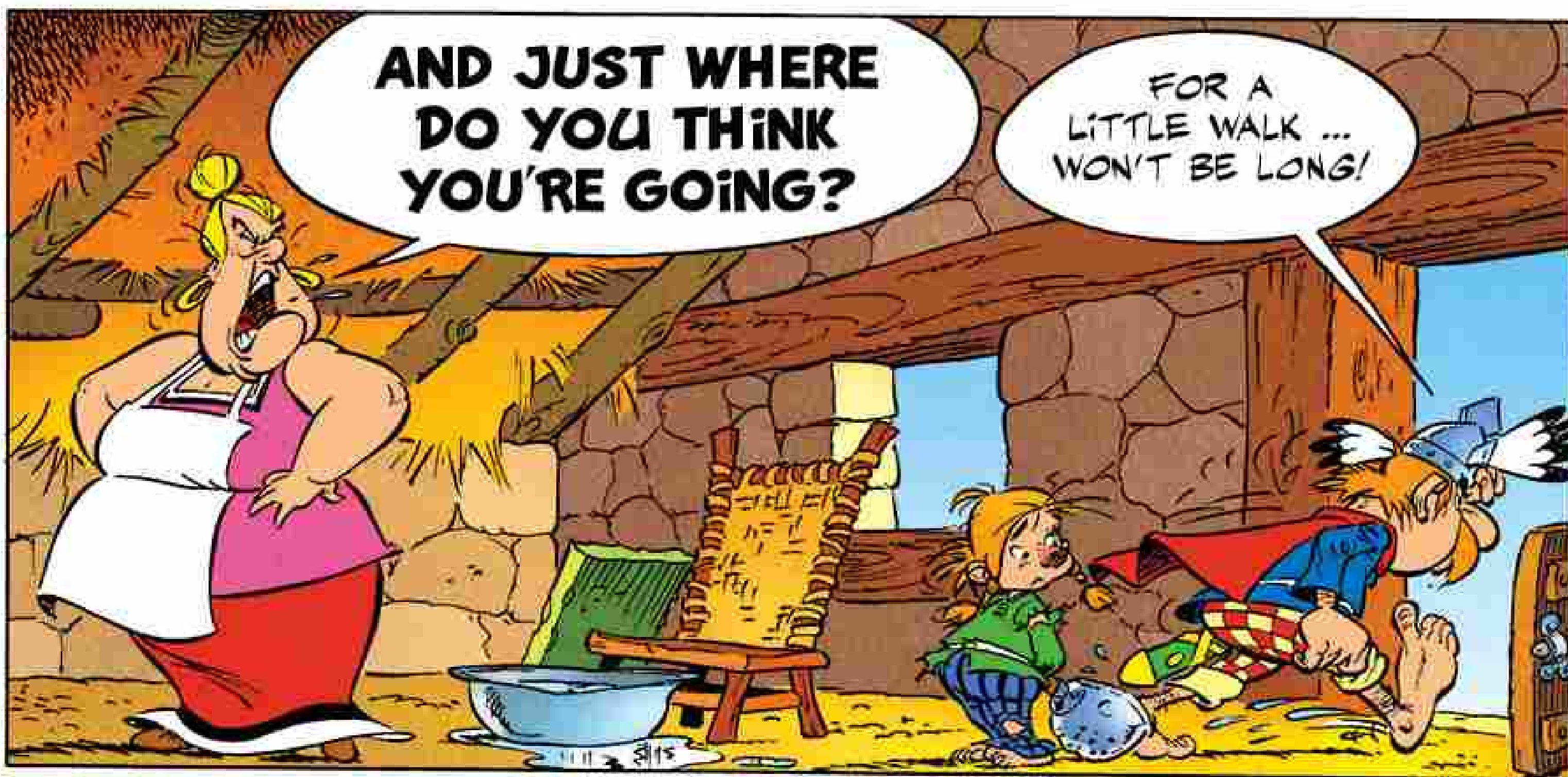
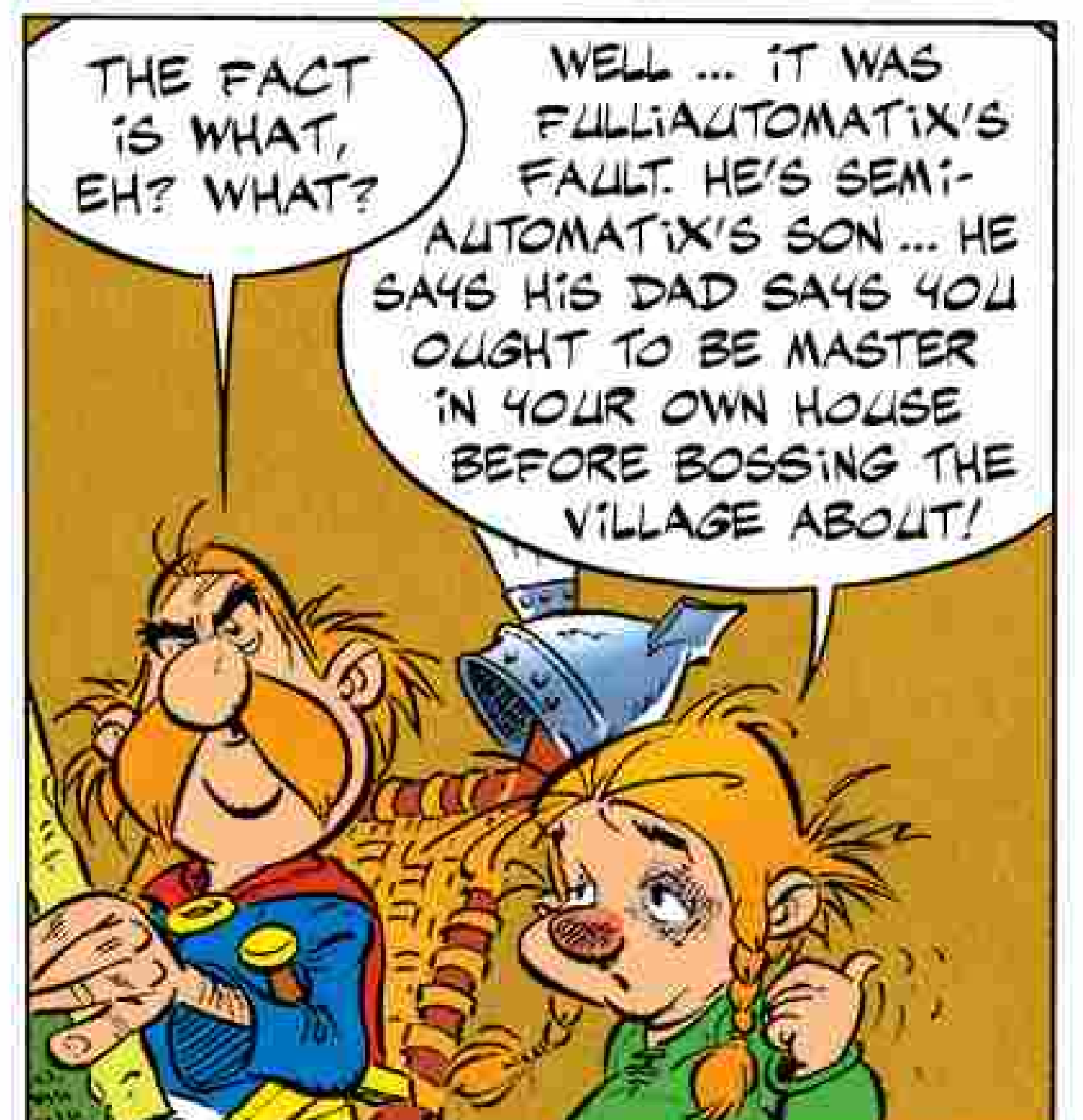
* BEFORE CAESAR

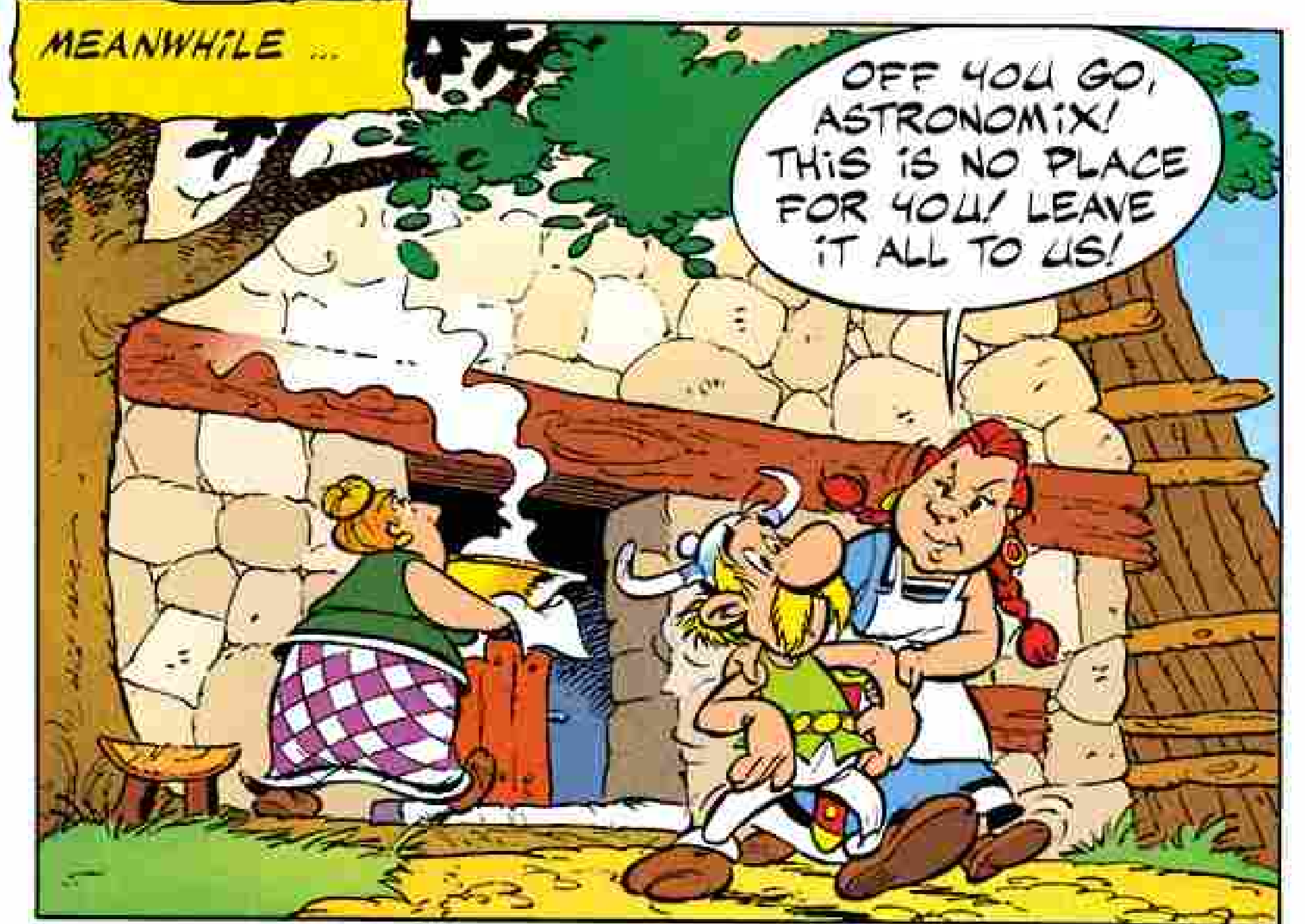
GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED ... WITH ENJOYING A PERIOD OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY, AND DOES NOT HOLD OUT AGAINST LIVING THE LIFE OF RILIX.* SUCH WAS THE CASE IN ONE SMALL VILLAGE IN ARMORICA, WHICH WOULD MAKE NEWS LATER, AFTER THE ROMAN CONQUEST.



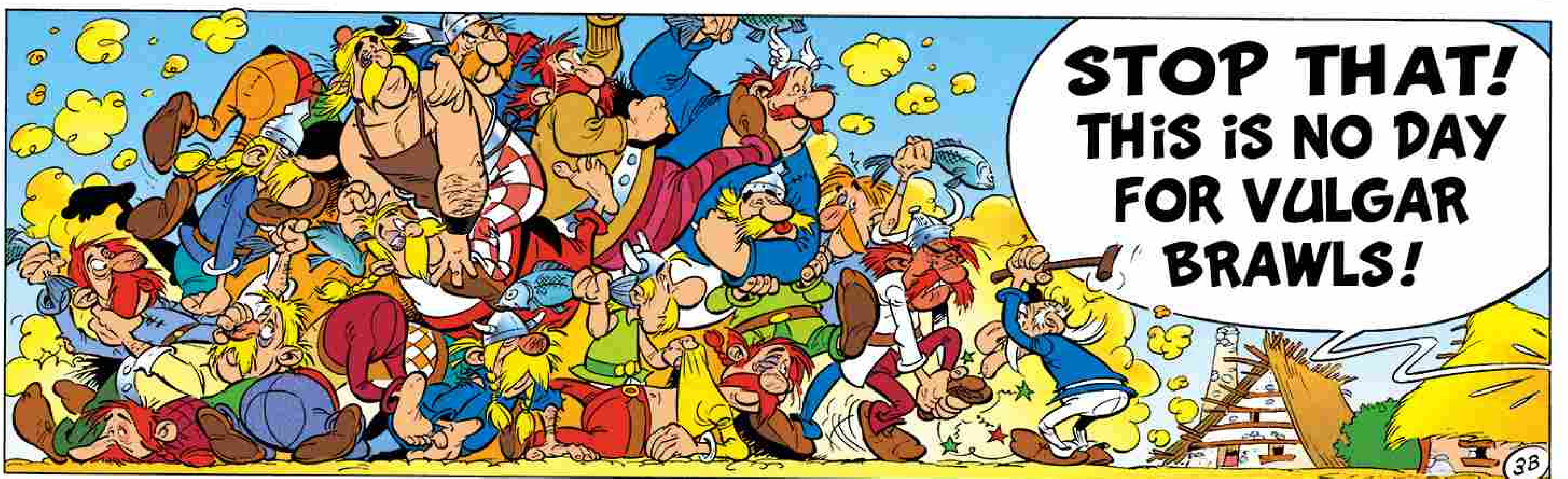
* ANCIENT GAUL KNOWN FOR HIS LOVE OF LUXURY

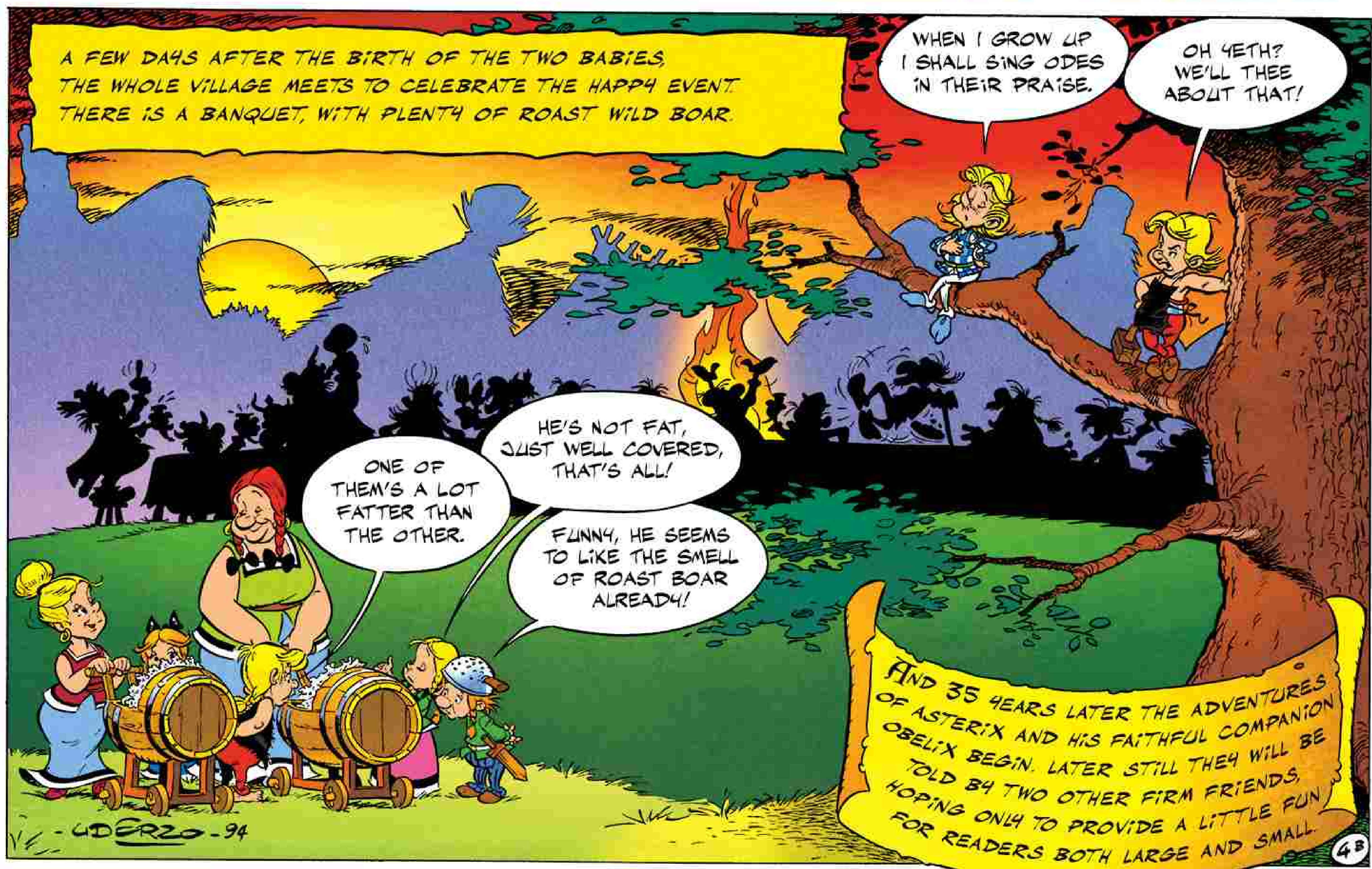
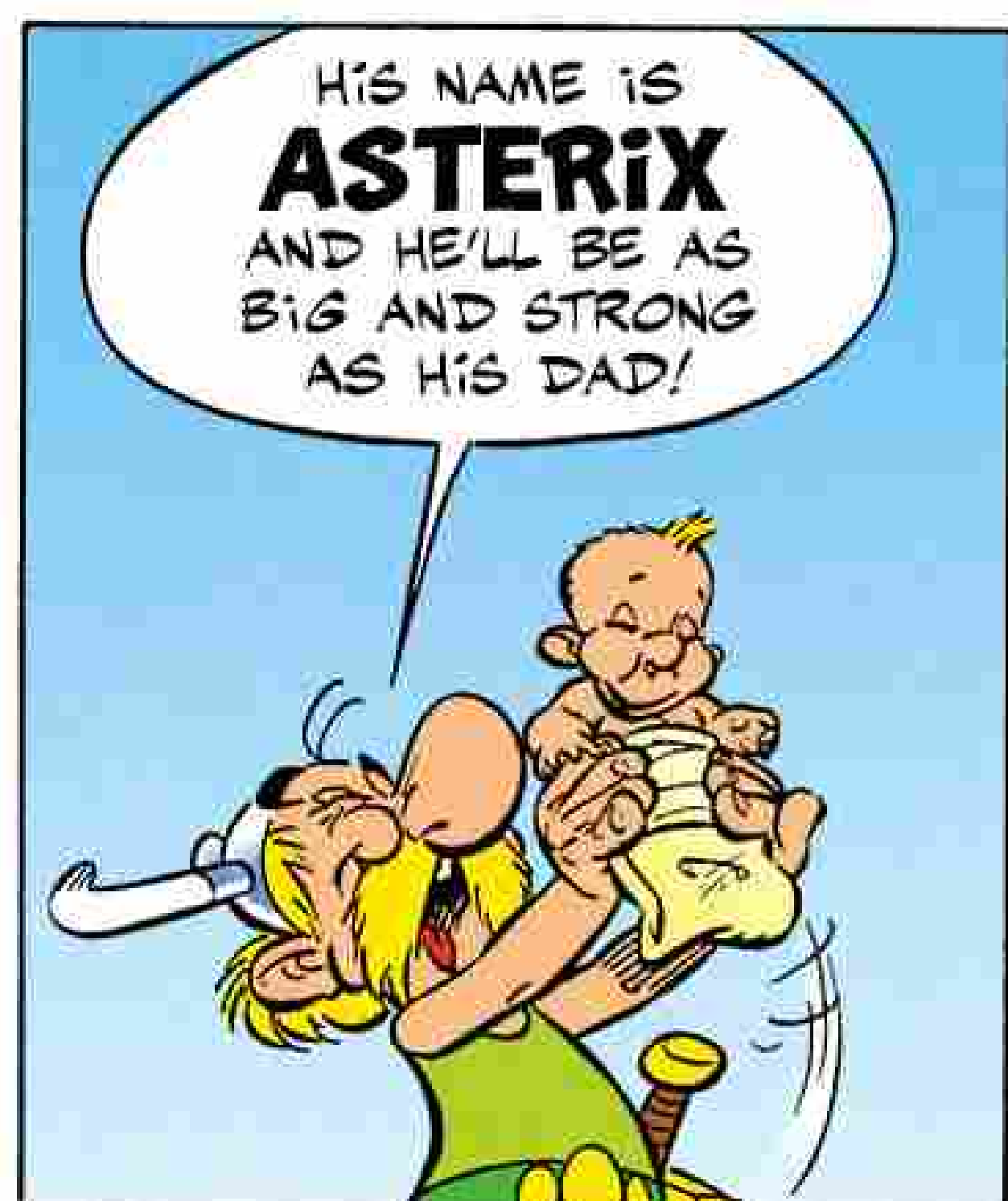
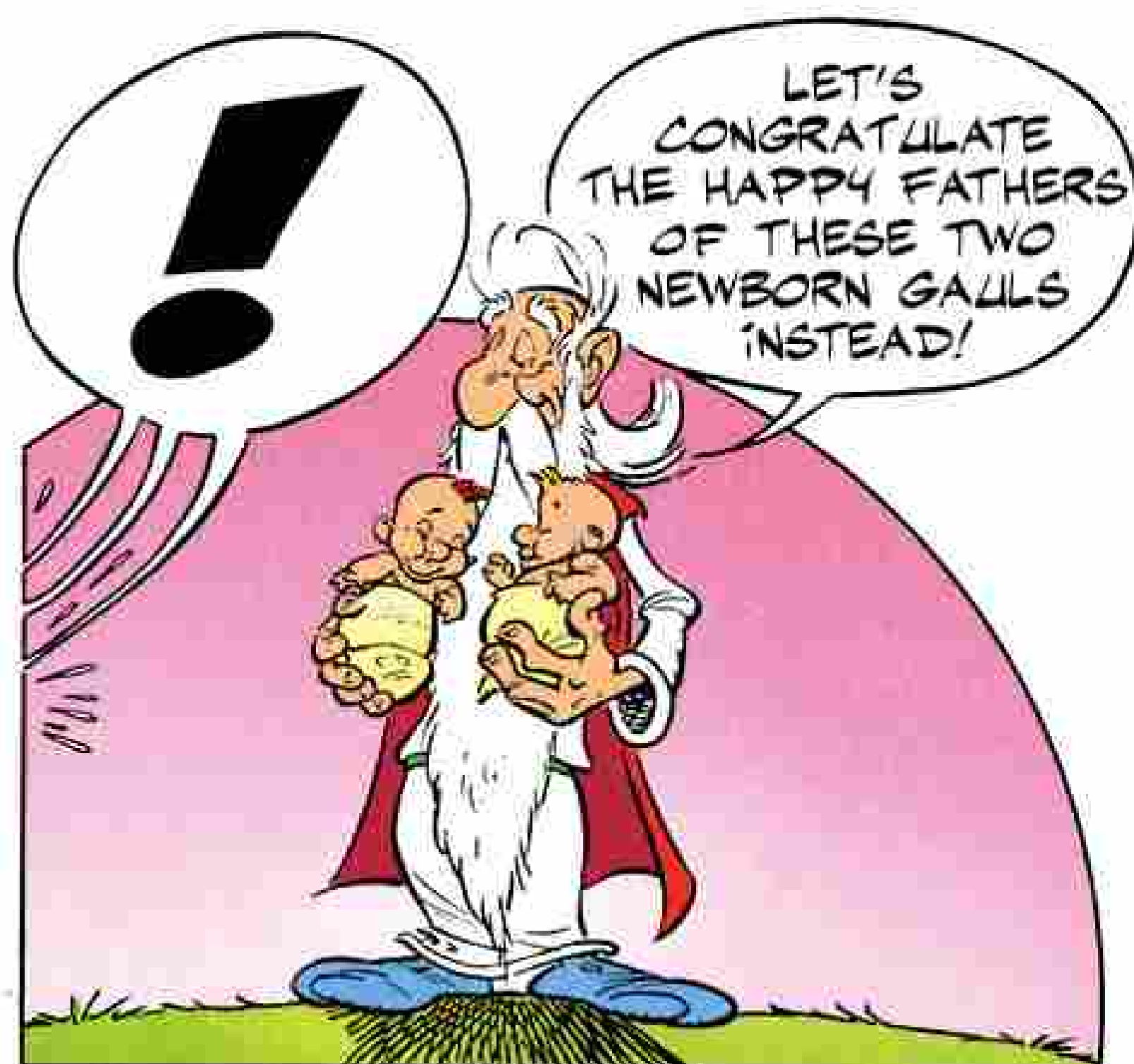






YUP ... AND WHEN I FEEL GALLED I GET HUNGRY!





In 50 BC

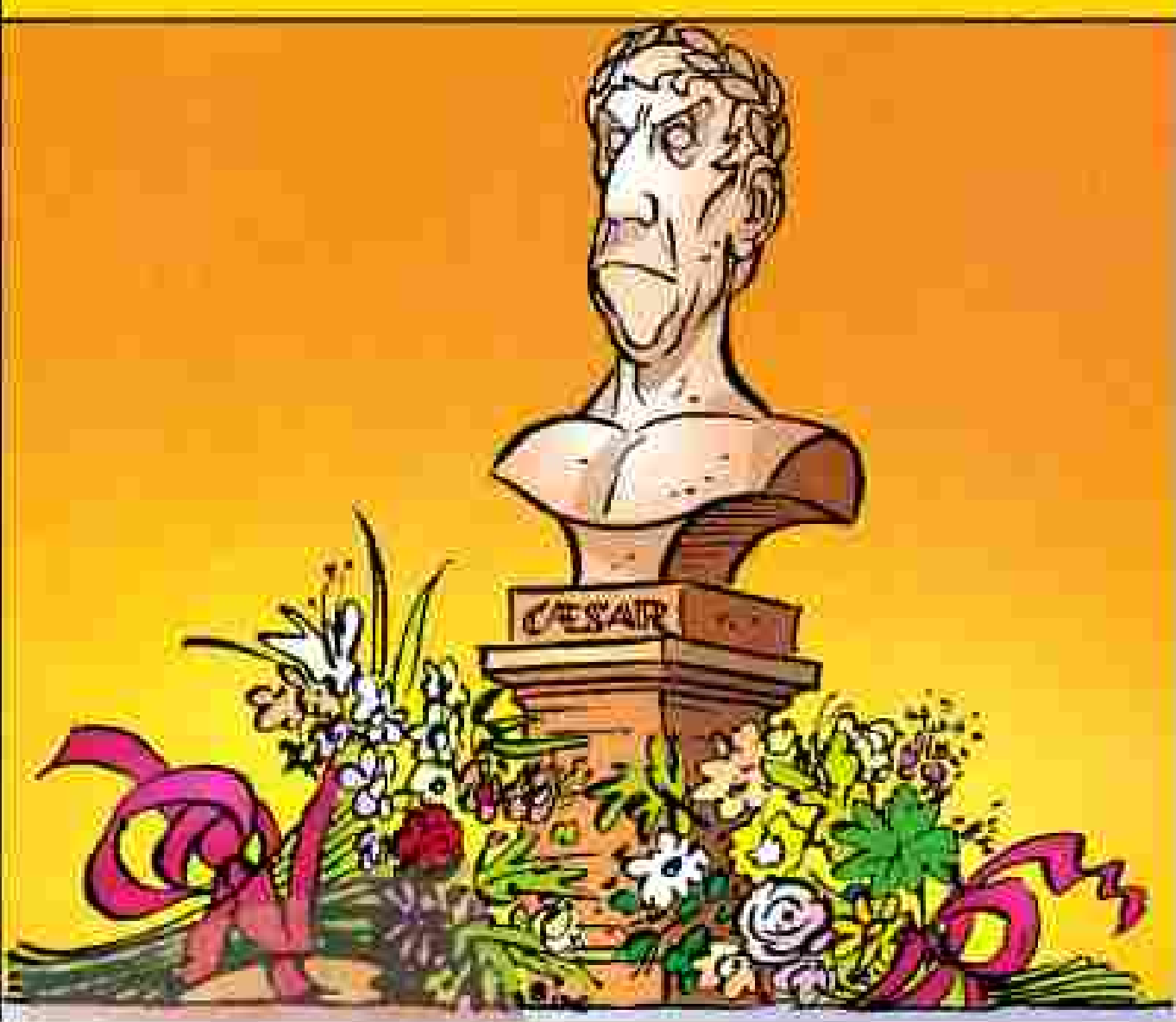
May 1977

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

Georges Dargaud, the publisher of "Pilote" and the Asterix books, wanted to see his leading series reach the American market. The head of an American syndicate visited Paris to meet the creators of the phenomenally successful character Asterix, and they soon came to an agreement. An Asterix album would be published in daily instalments in a number of American papers. René and Albert were delighted but cautious, and thought it might be a good idea to present the world of Asterix to the Americans in an original, condensed form before embarking on the publication of a whole story. The result was these three pages, which for a long time were unknown even in France. Enjoy!

It was the famous "National Geographic" magazine that published them in May 1977, when it was running a major piece about the Gauls. However, the authors' efforts went unrewarded. Publication in American strip cartoon format meant reducing the size of the pictures, which made it difficult to read the speech bubbles. As the authors did not want to have their original work modified beyond the adaptations usual in translation, the experiment ended after the first album — since René and Albert declined an offer for them to go and live in the USA so as to suit their work to the "American format".

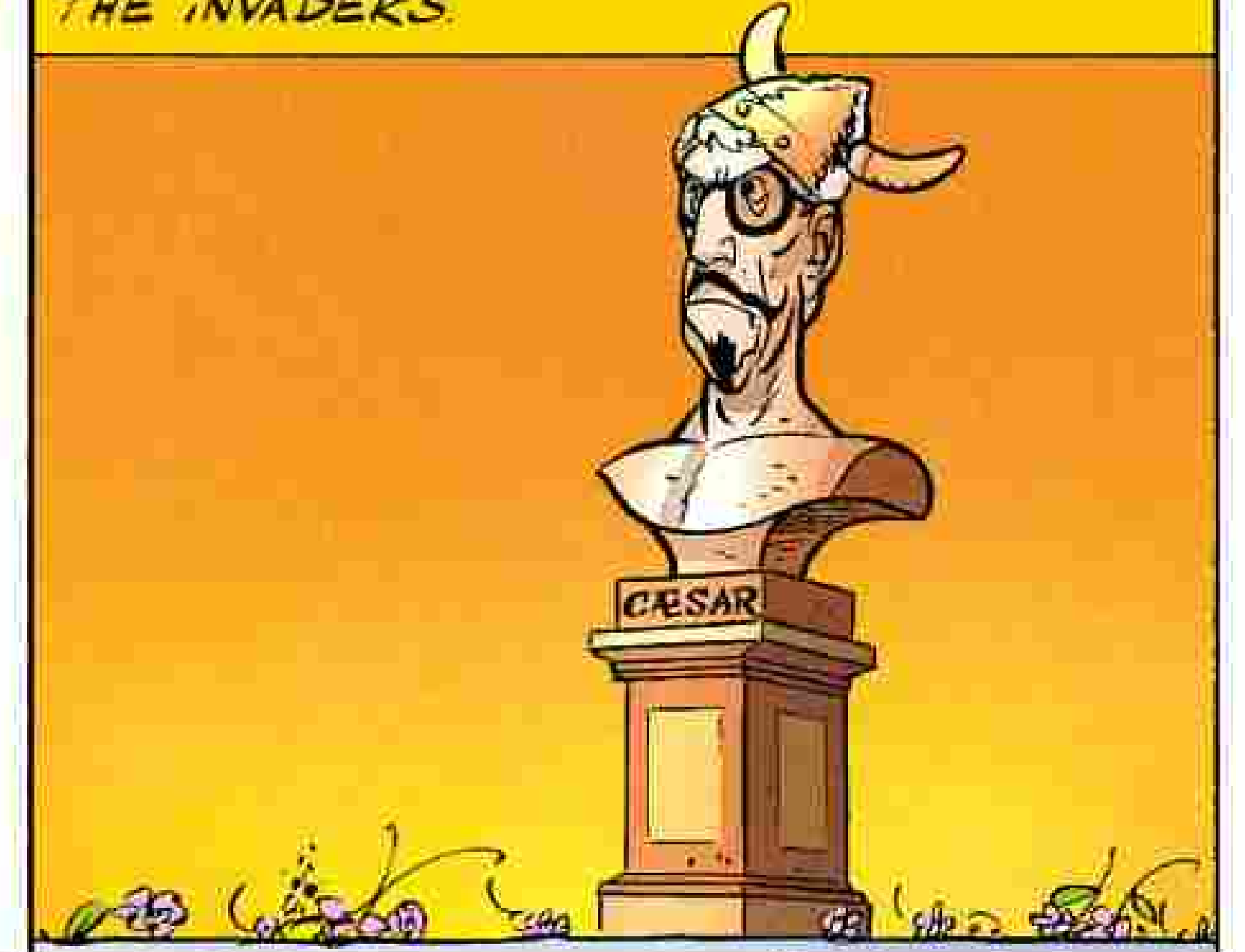
THERE WERE TWO KINDS OF GAULS. SOME HAD ACCEPTED THE RULE OF THE ROMAN INVADER ...



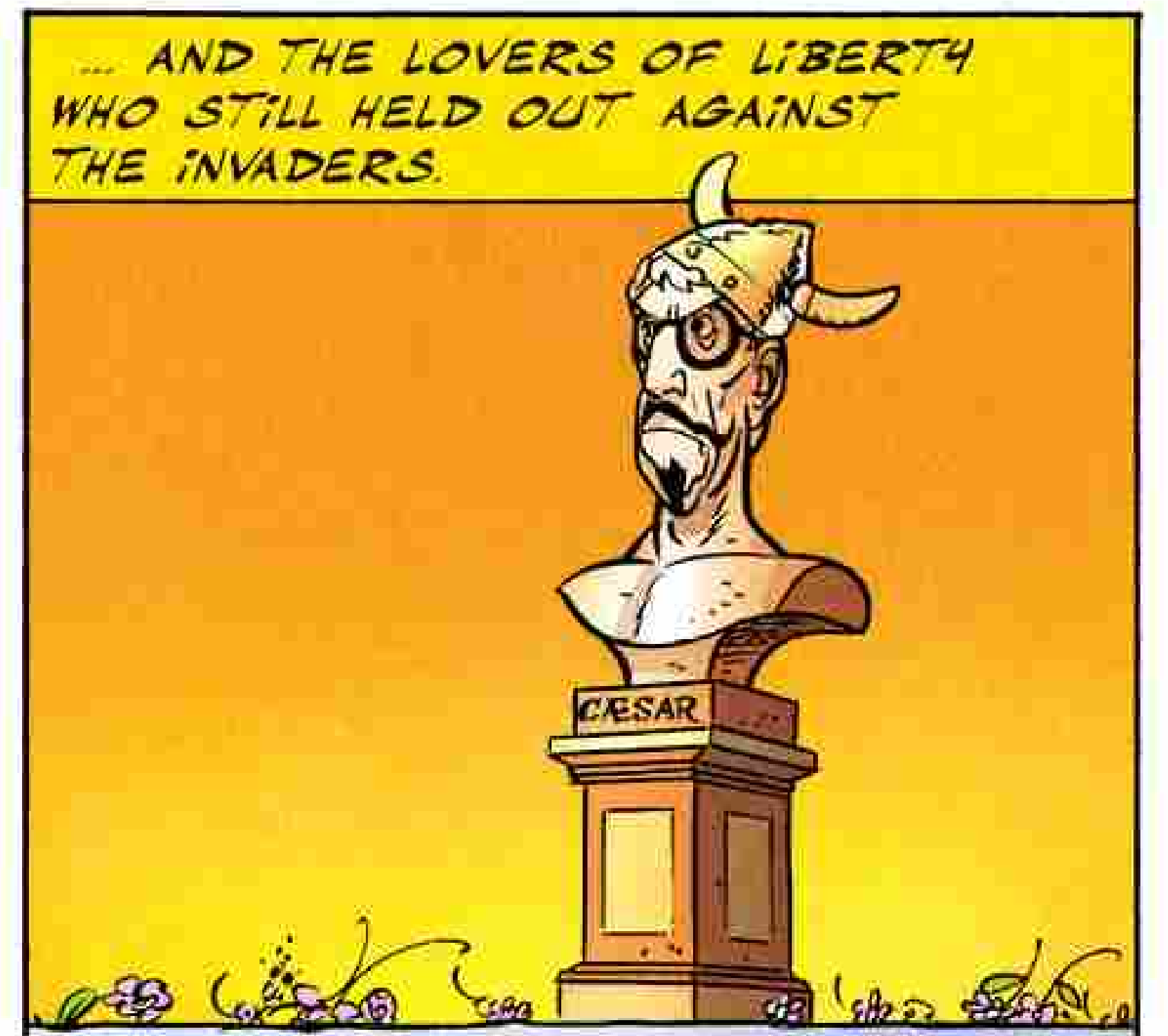
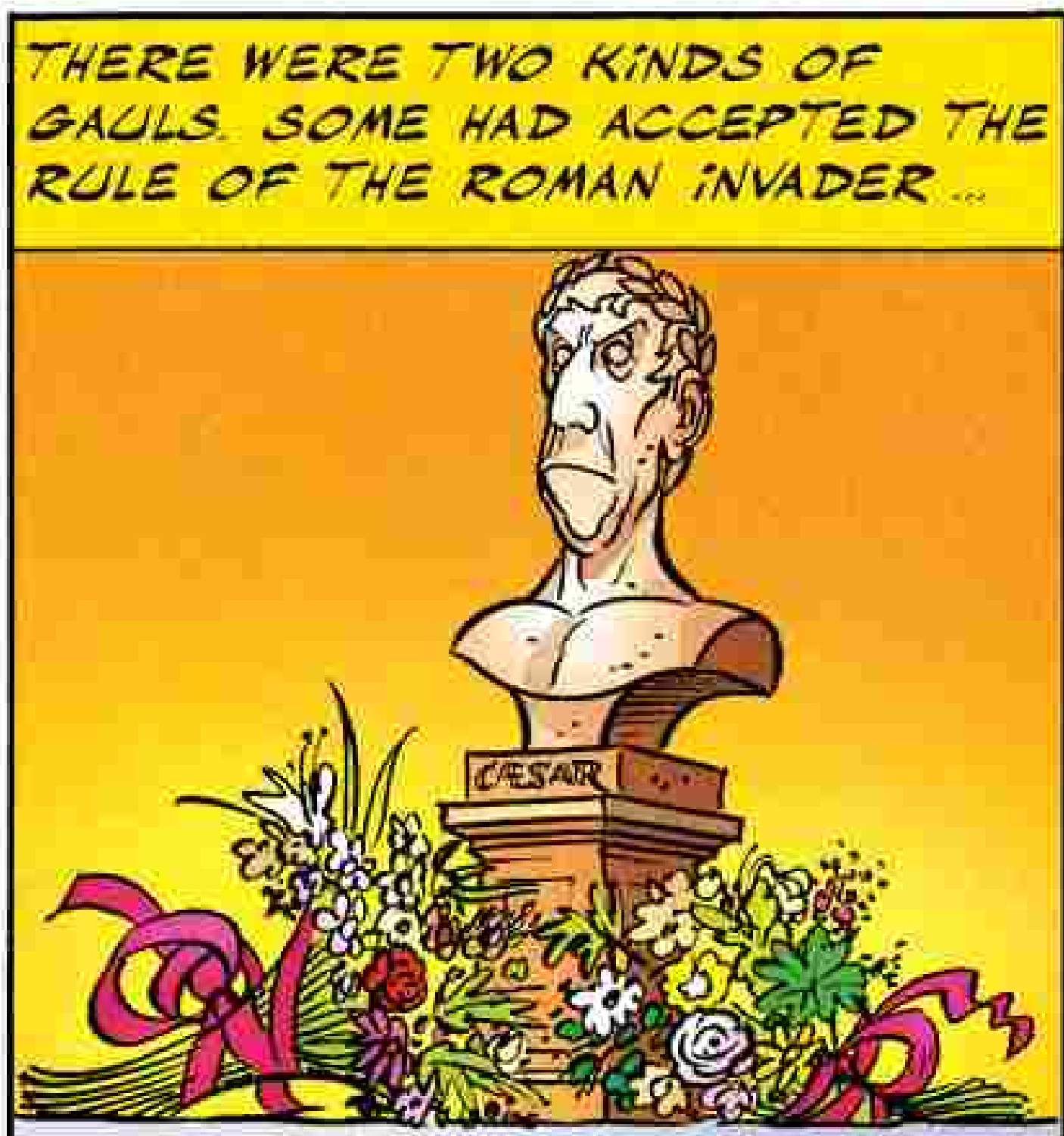
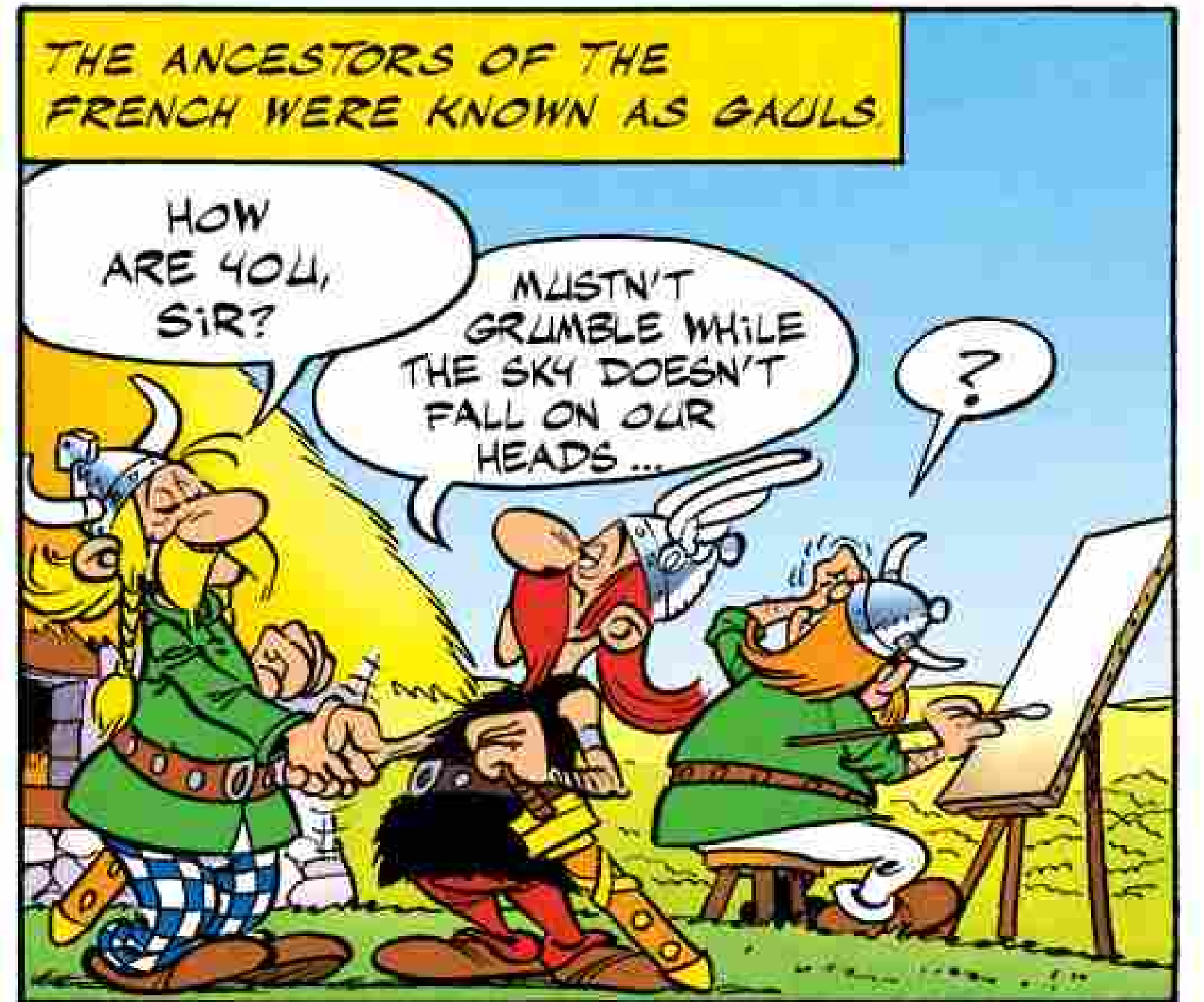
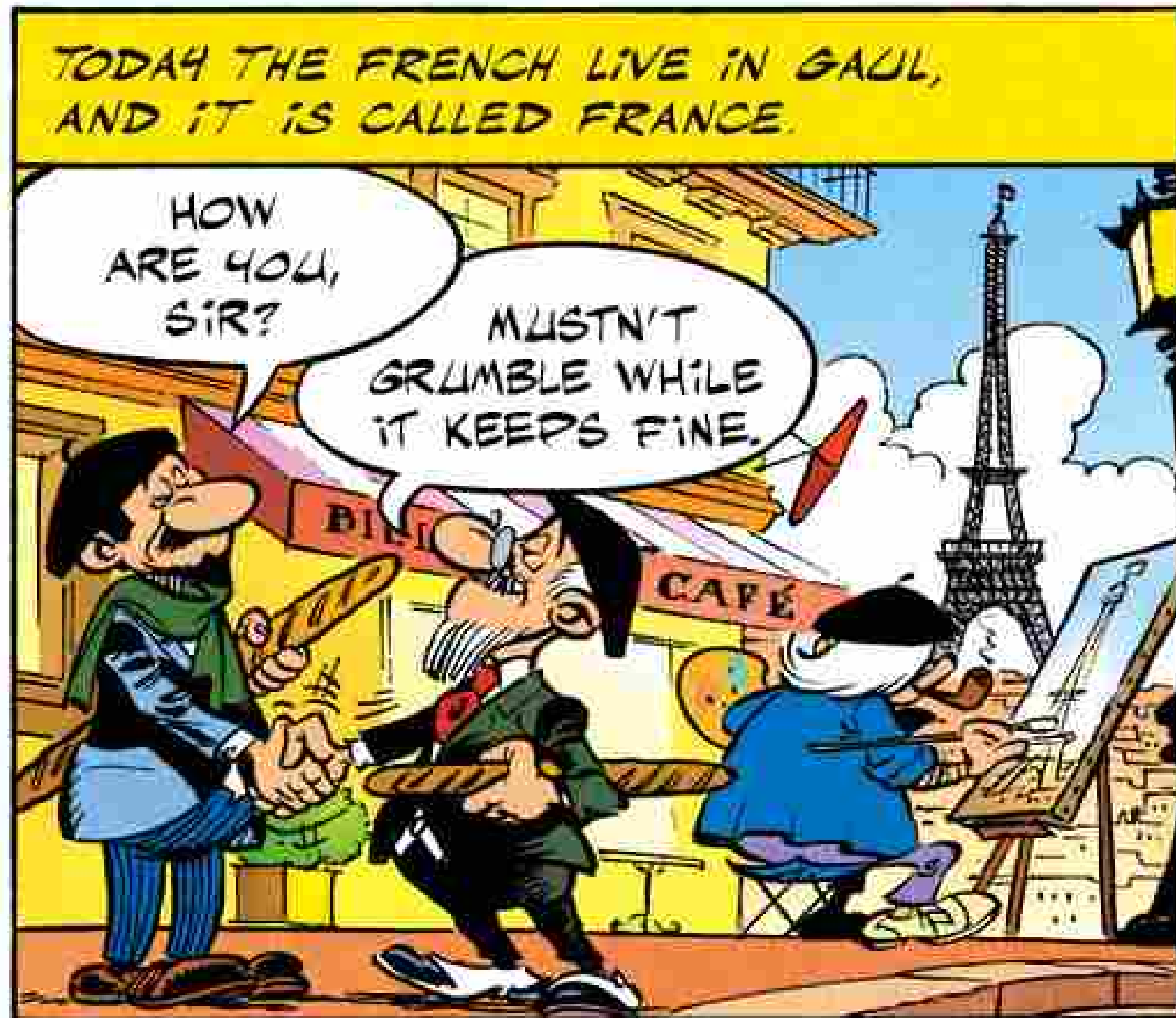
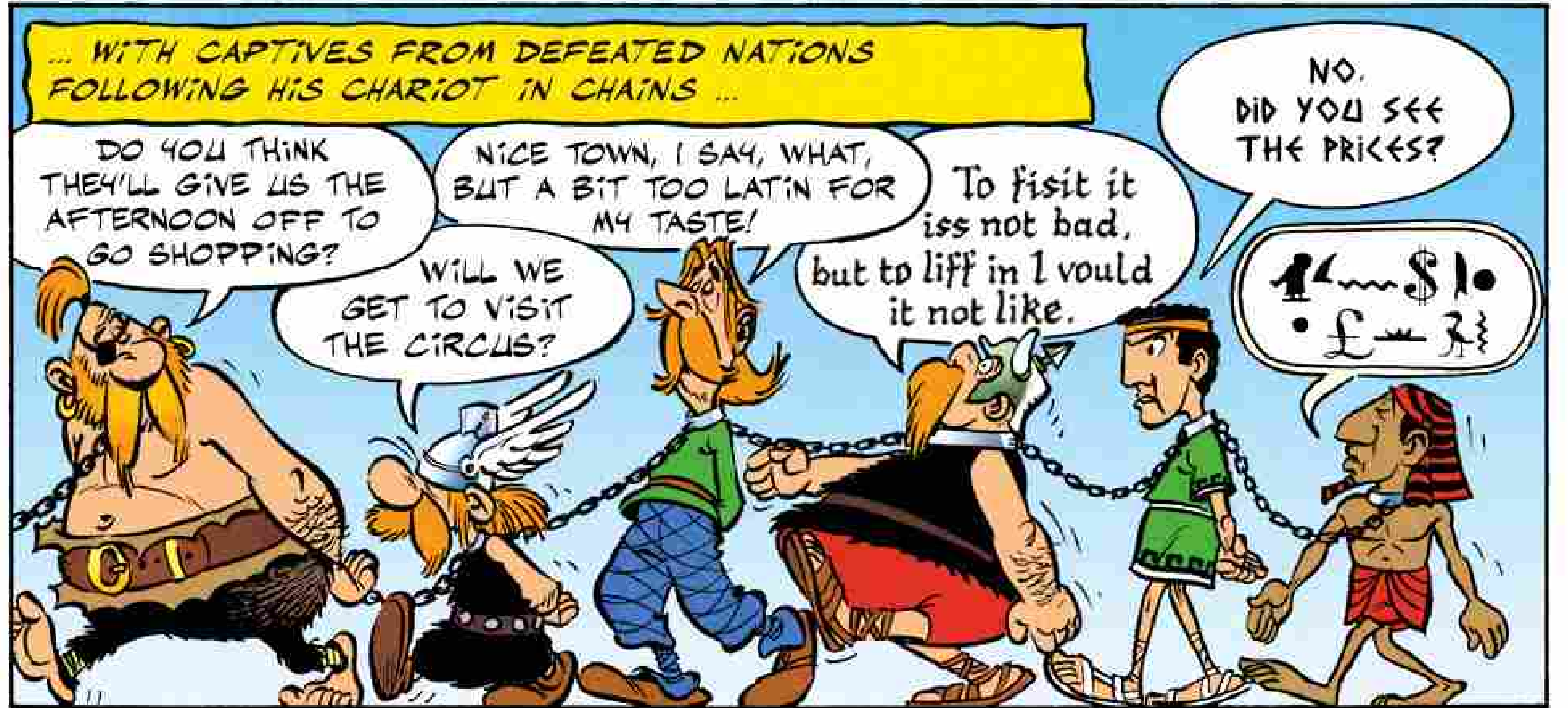
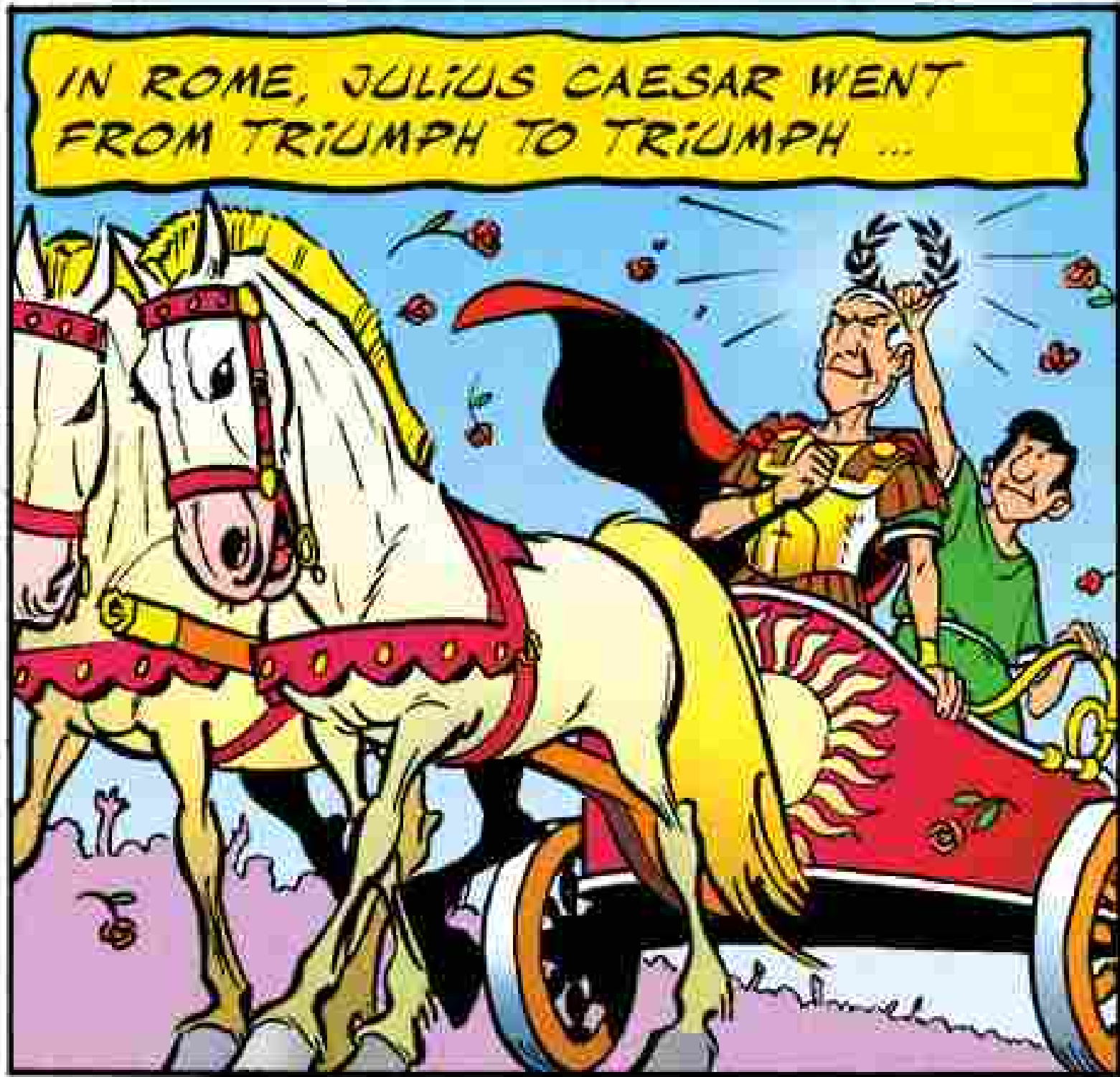
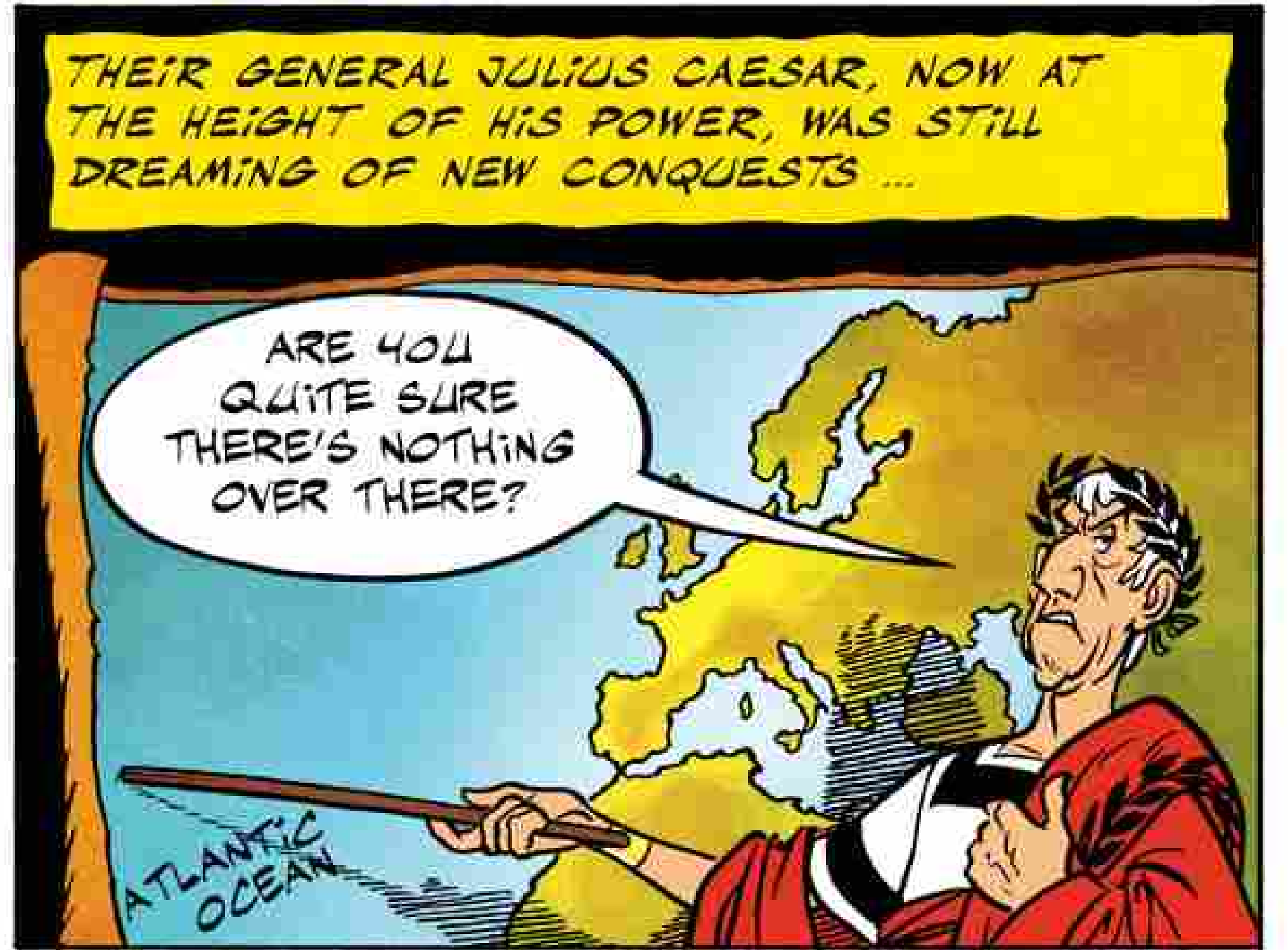
... AND IMITATED THEIR CONQUERORS' LANGUAGE AND BEHAVIOUR ...



... AND THE LOVERS OF LIBERTY WHO STILL HELD OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS.



"National Geographic"



ONE SUCH GROUP OF GAULS WAS HOLDING OUT IN A TINY VILLAGE ON THE WEST COAST OF THE COUNTRY.



THE ROMANS KEPT A CLOSE WATCH ON THESE CHEERFUL GAULS, WHO LIKED A GOOD LAUGH ...



OF ALL THE VILLAGE WARRIORS, ASTERIX WAS THE MOST INTELLIGENT ...



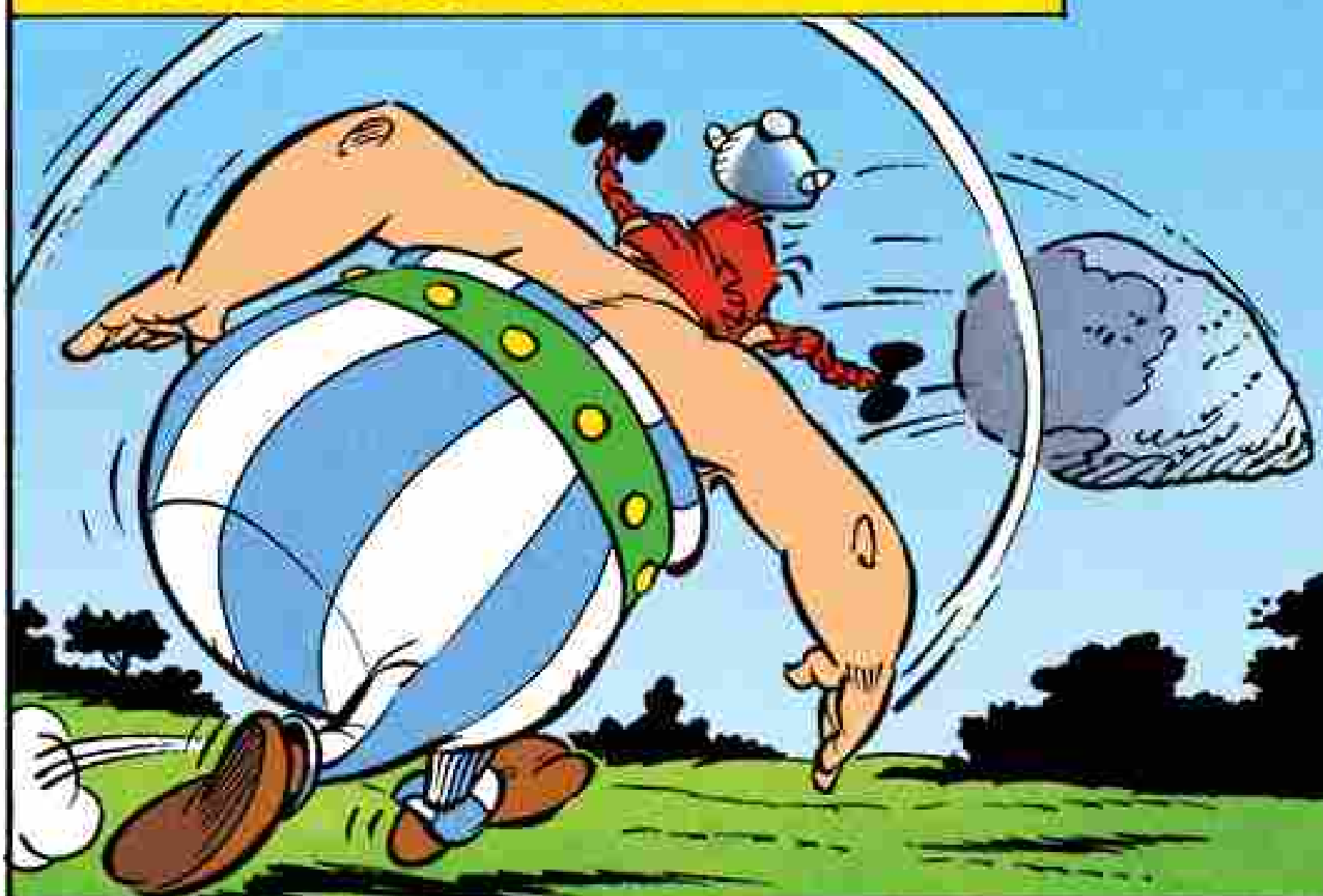
... AND THE BEST AT UNMASKING ROMAN SPIES.



OBELIX, A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, IS ASTERIX'S BEST FRIEND.



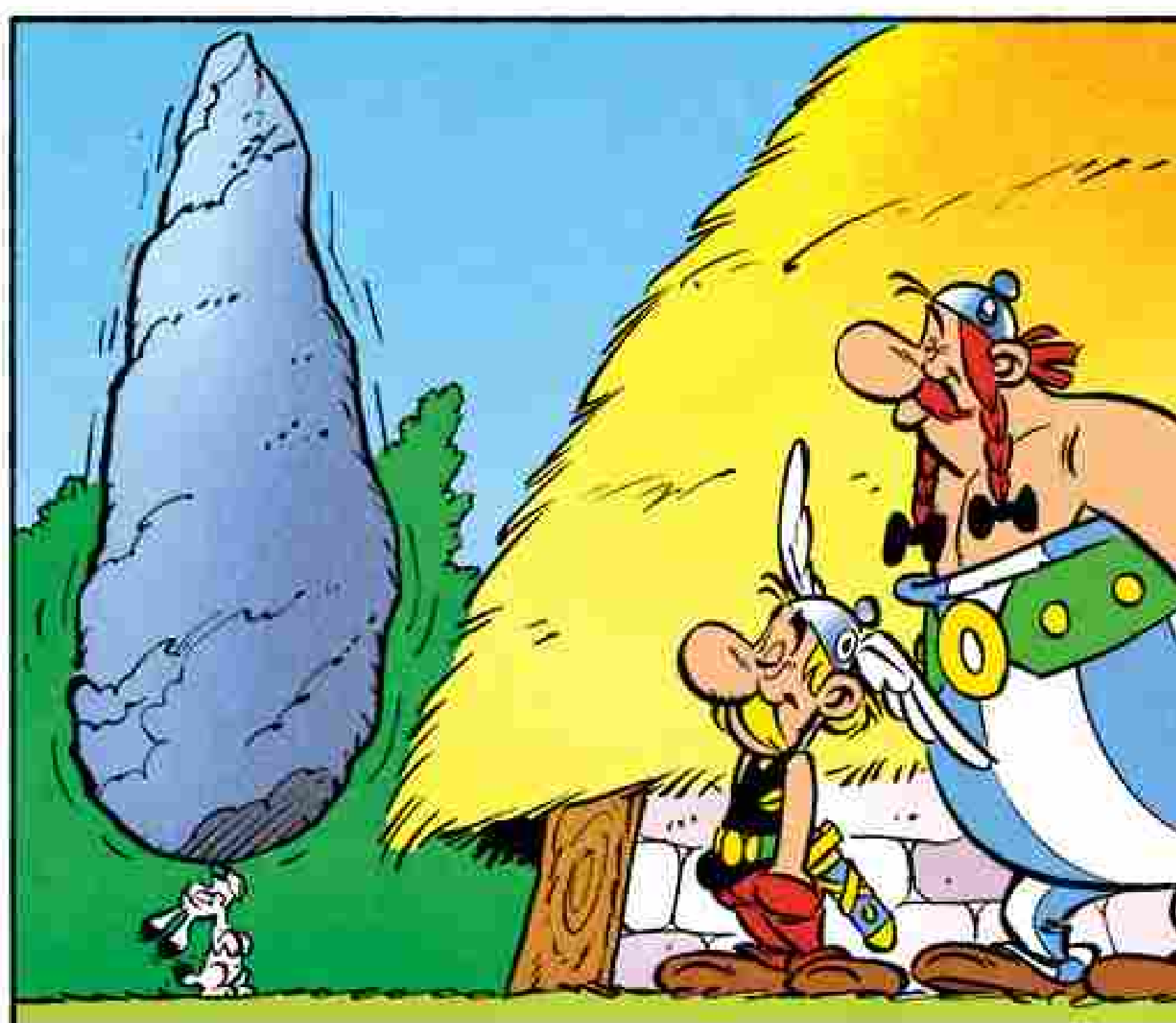
HISTORIANS HAVE NOT YET FOUND OUT WHAT MENHIRS WERE ACTUALLY FOR.



AND AS FOR THE USE OBELIX OFTEN MAKES OF THEM, THE ROMANS AS WELL AS HISTORIANS ARE AT CROSS PURPOSES.

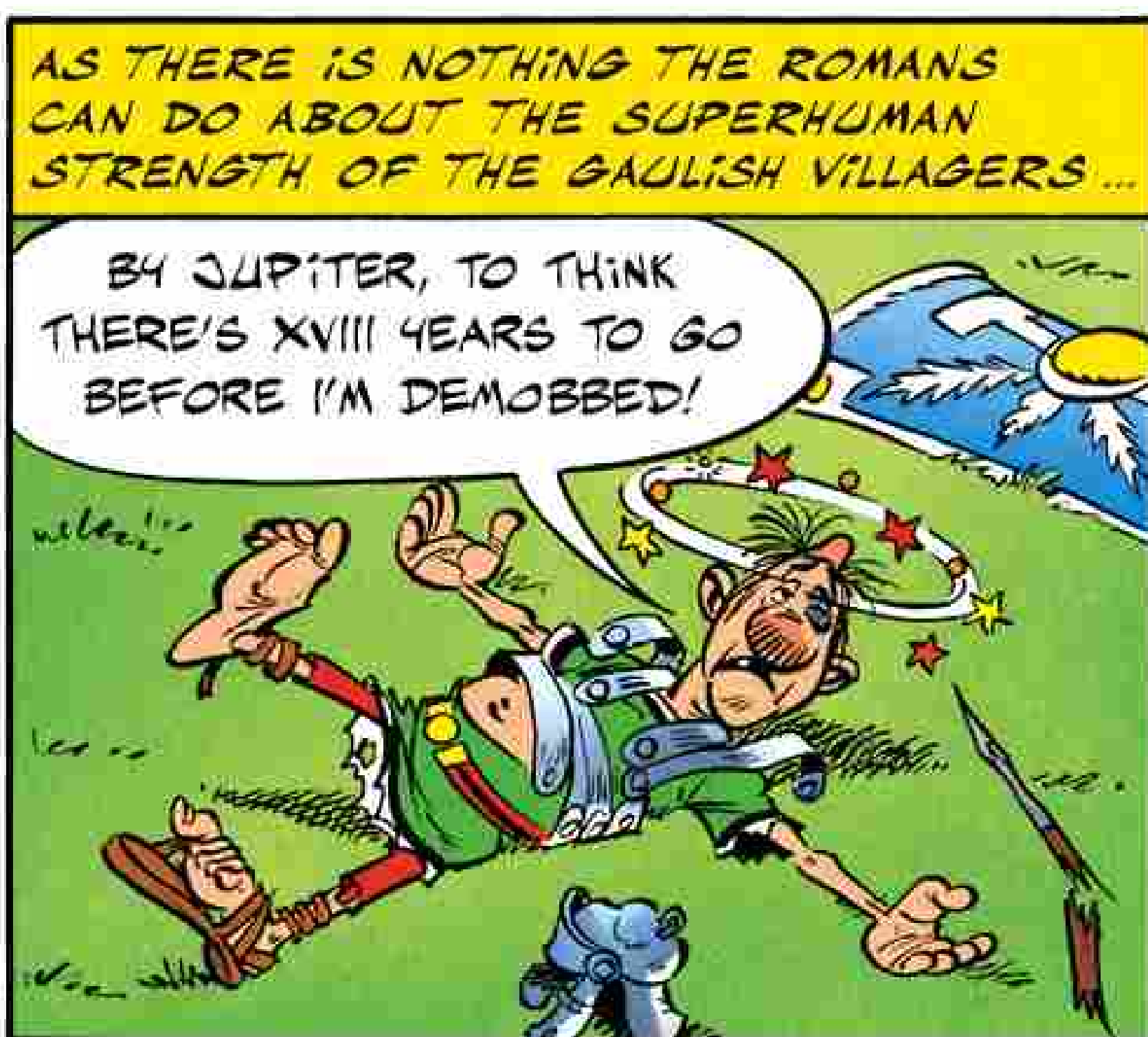
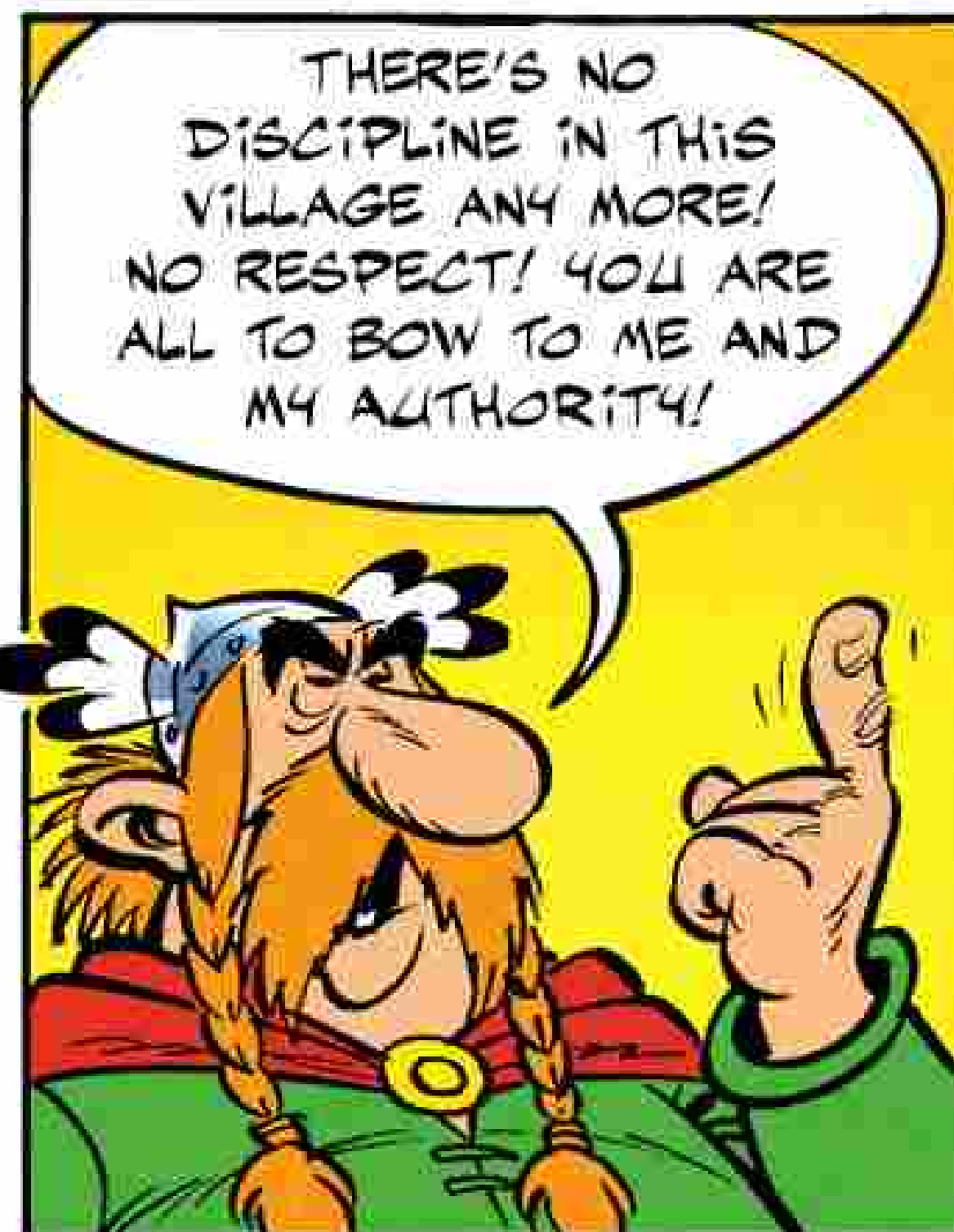
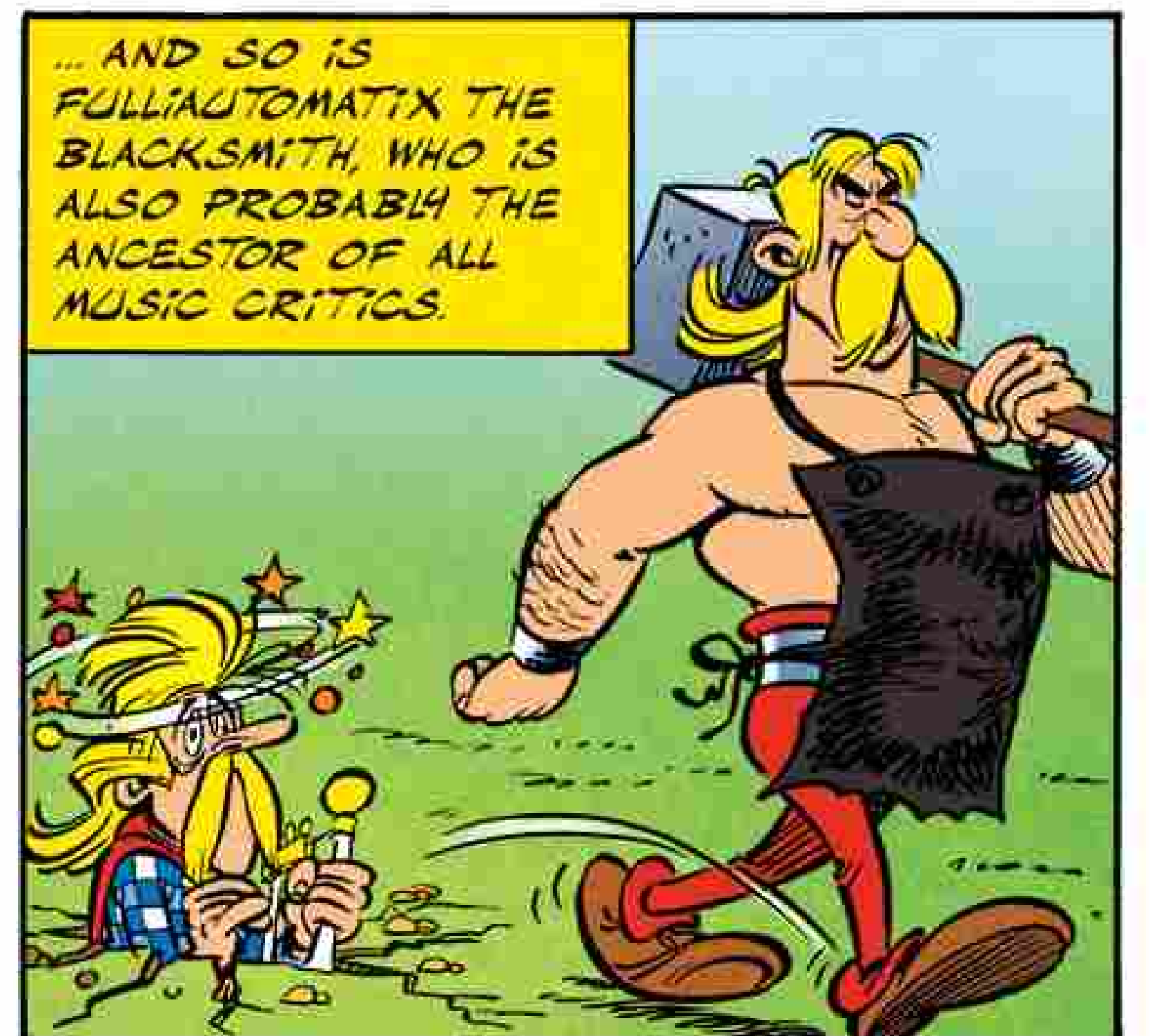
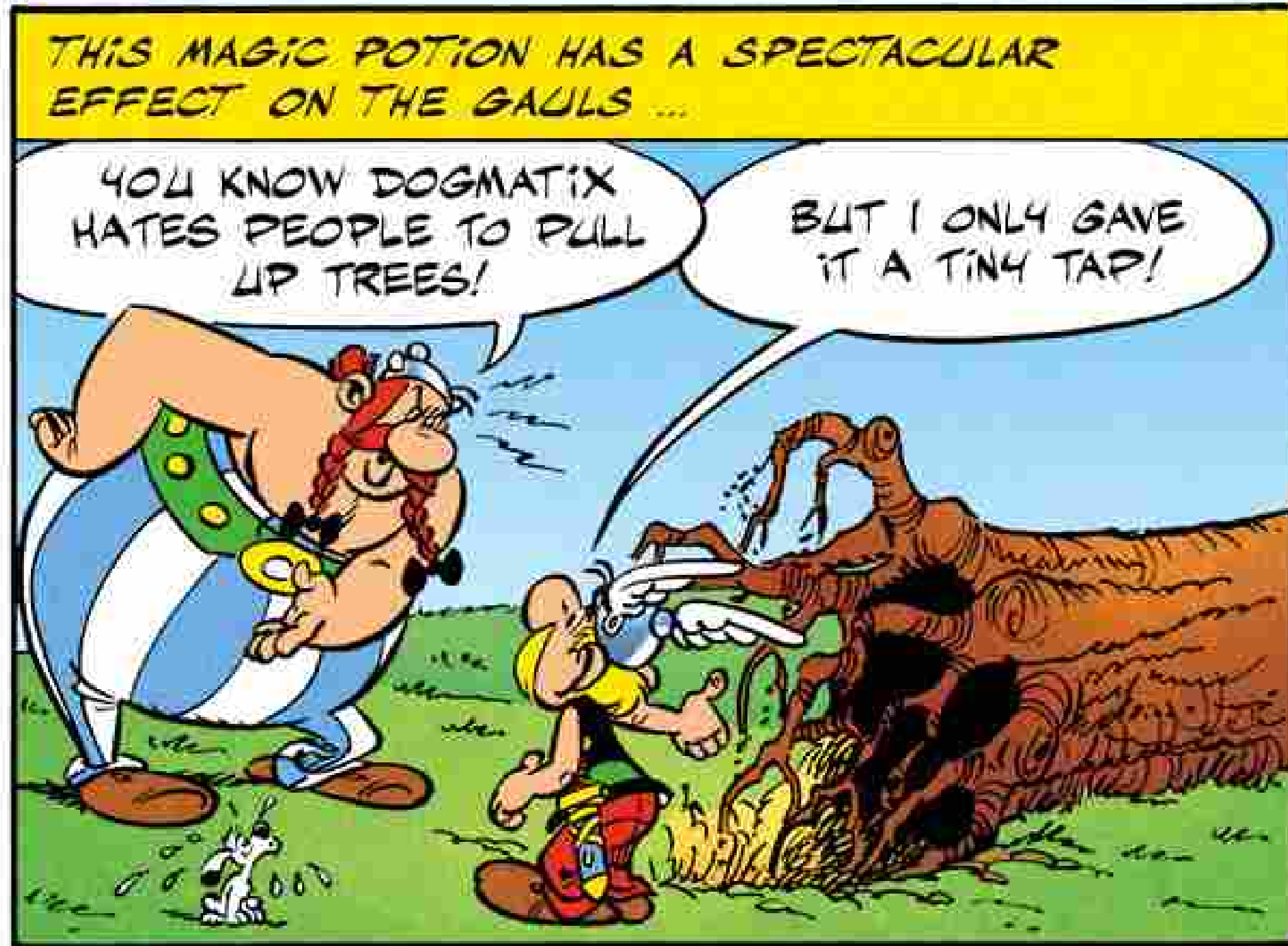
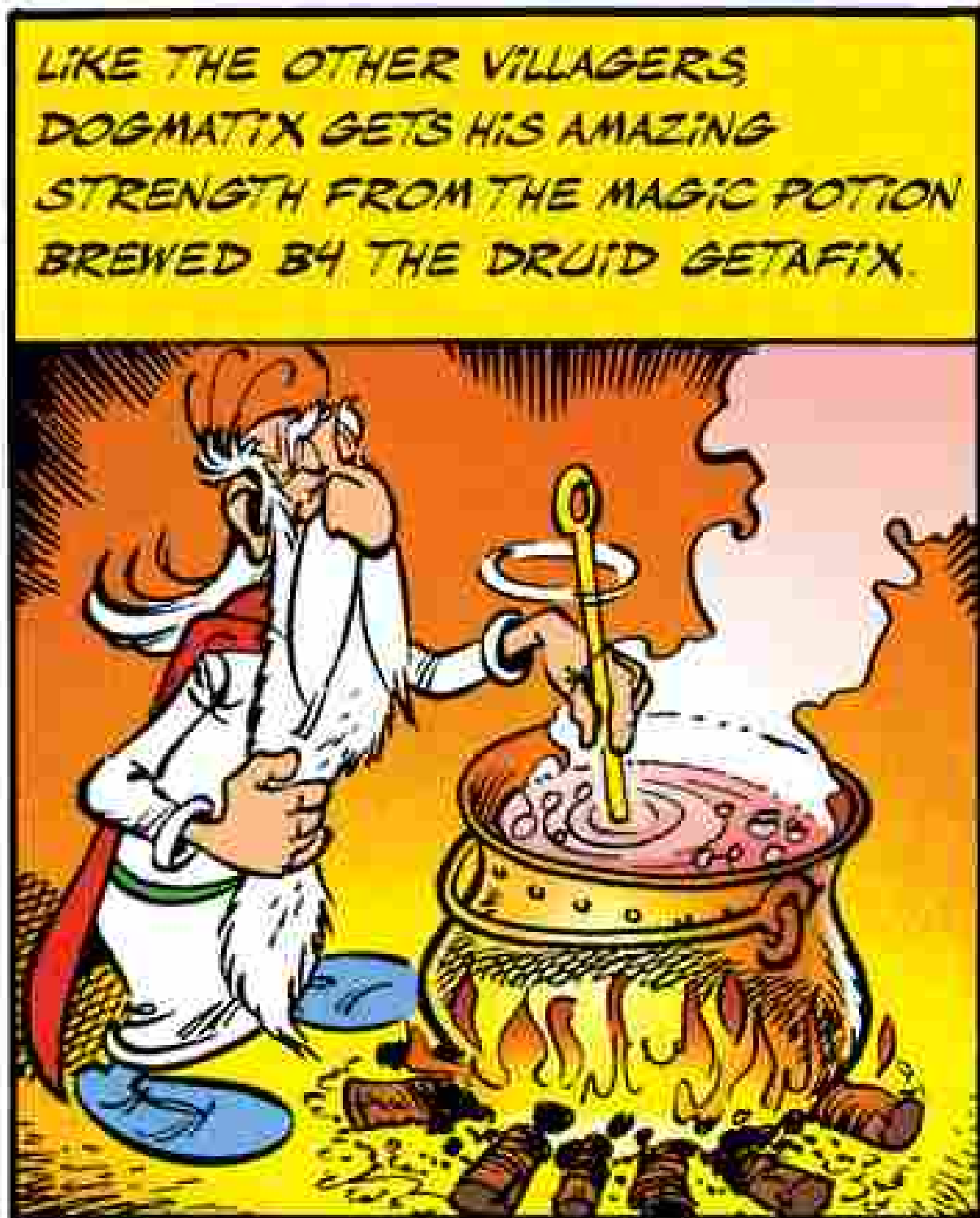


LOOK, ASTERIX! I'VE TAUGHT DOGMATIX A NEW TRICK!



THIS MAY SEEM STRANGE, BUT REMEMBER THAT DOG BISCUITS HAD NOT YET BEEN INVENTED IN 50 BC.





Chanticleerix August 2003

Written and illustrated by Albert Uderzo

Never before published, this five-page story was finished in May 2003 and is about the village cockerel. It adds to Albert Uderzo's carnival of animals. He has always been particularly fond of chickens. Every Asterix album contains hens and cockerels leading their private and obviously harmonious family lives in the corners of the pictures. The idea for this story came from a projected film spin-off. With René Goscinny, Albert Uderzo once planned a pilot for an animated cartoon film starring Dogmatix — a rarity which has remained unknown. But when he looked at it again 30 years later, Albert thought he would like to write a new story about the birds who share the village with the indomitable Gauls. You might think that the magical forest of Broceliande, not far from the Gaulish village, had given them new powers — but don't tell Obelix!



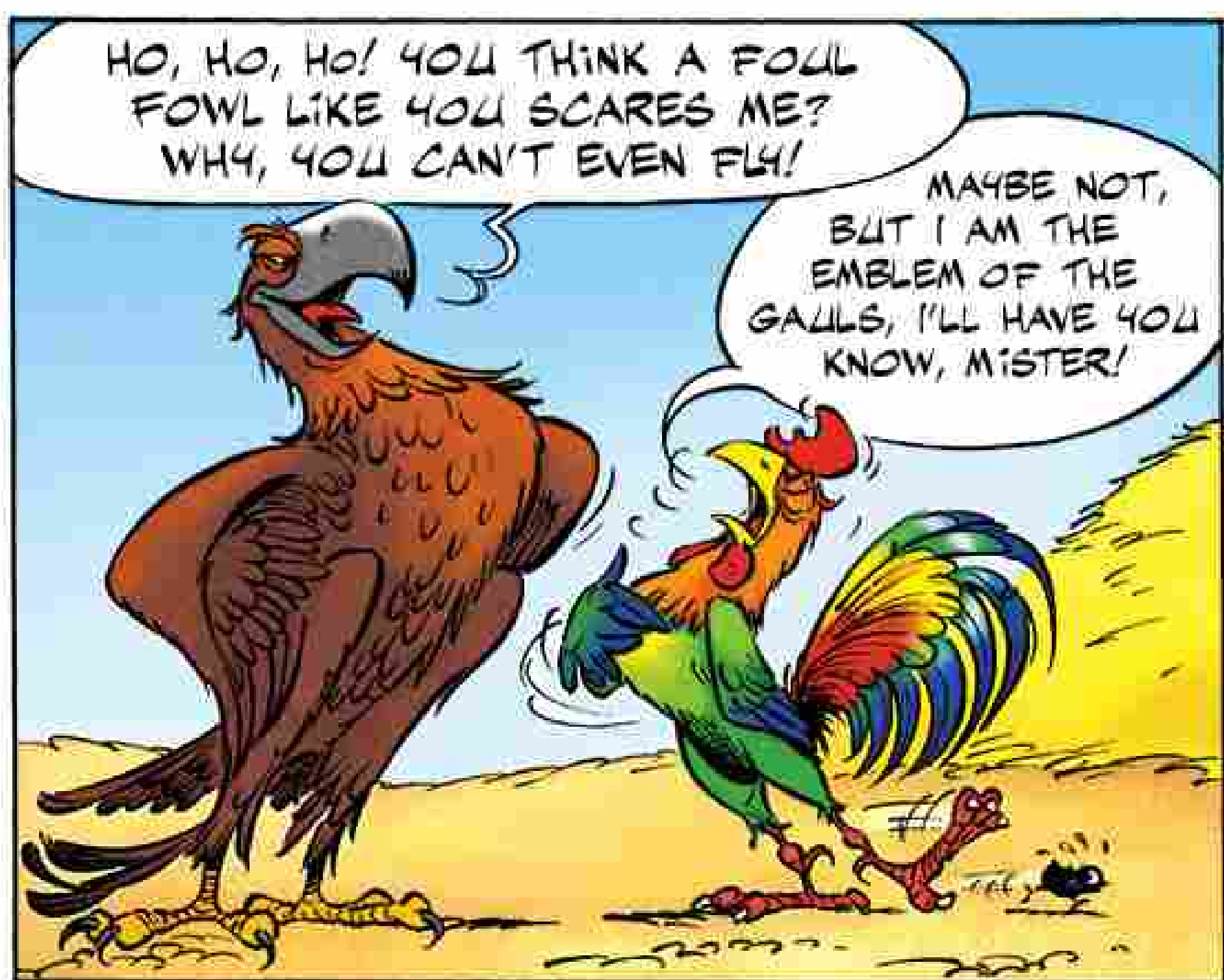
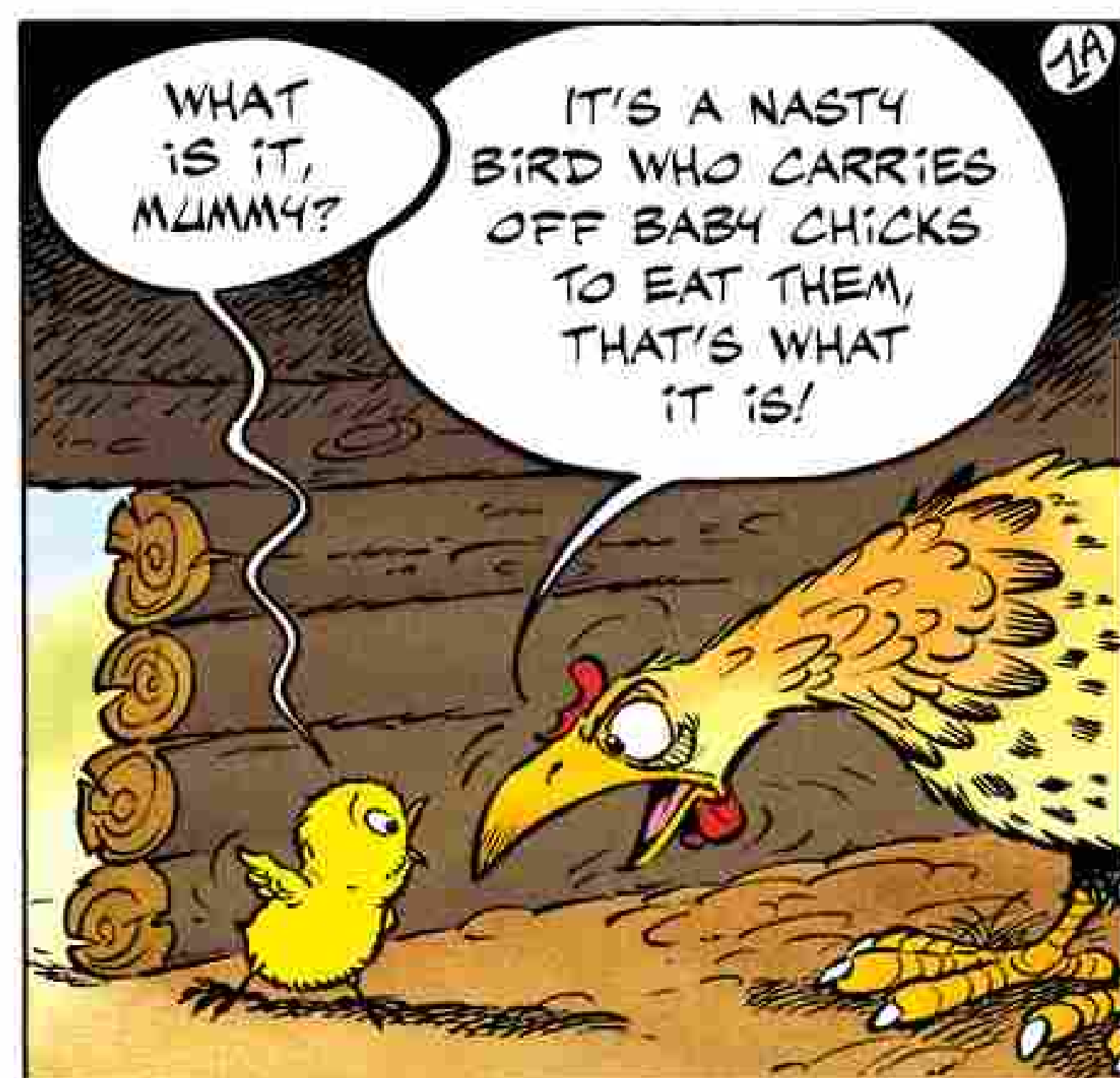
Gaulish
Cockerel

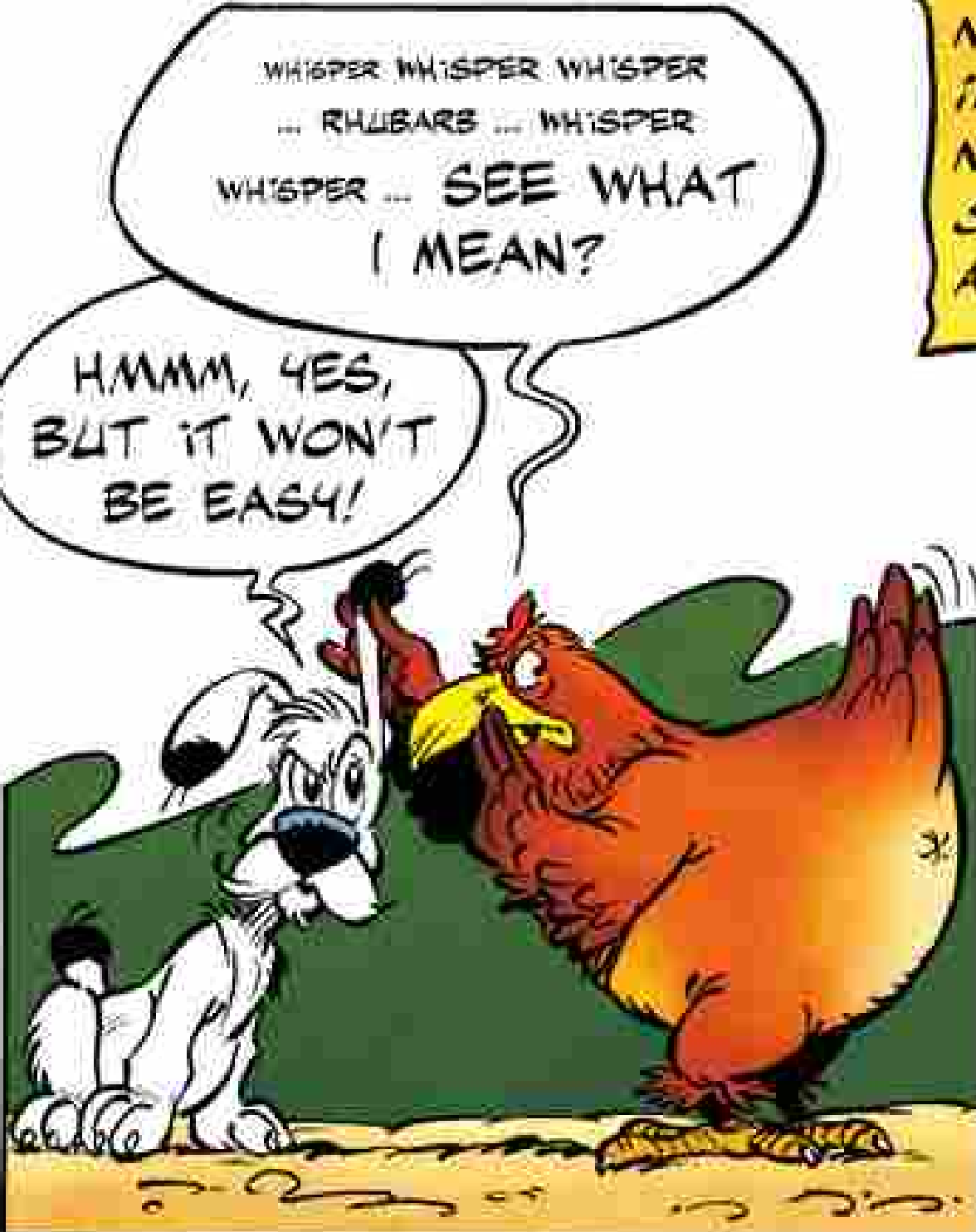
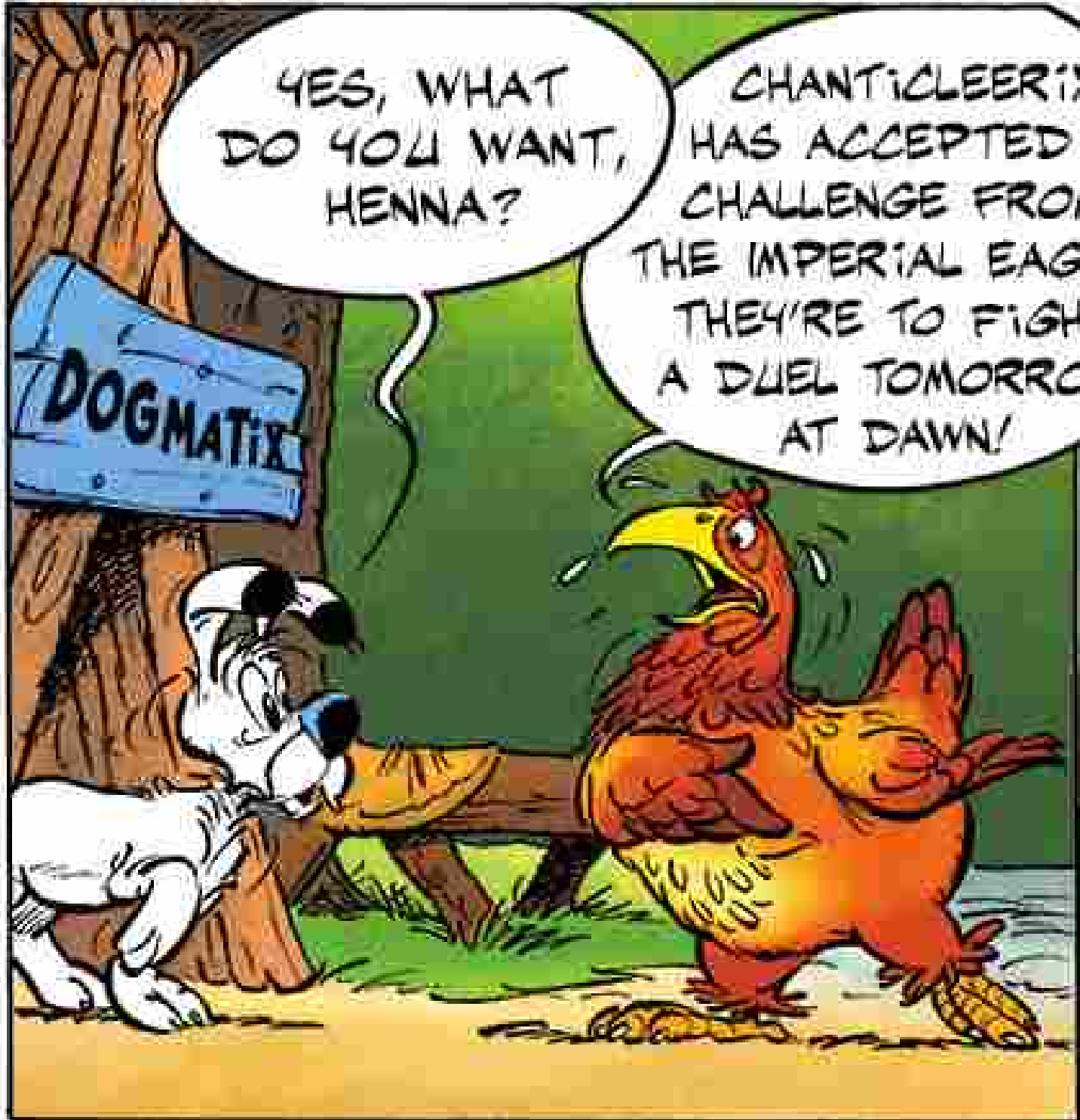
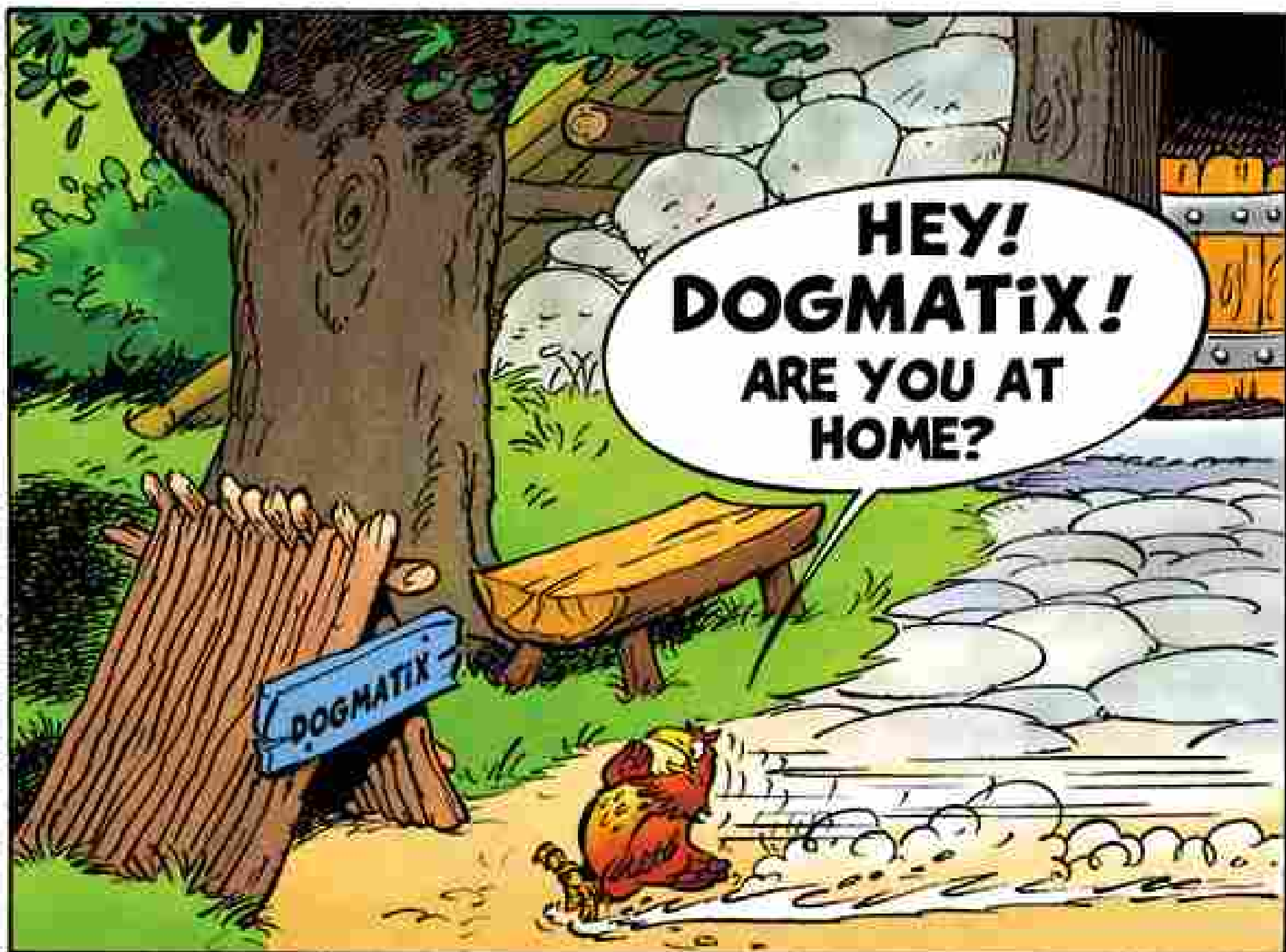
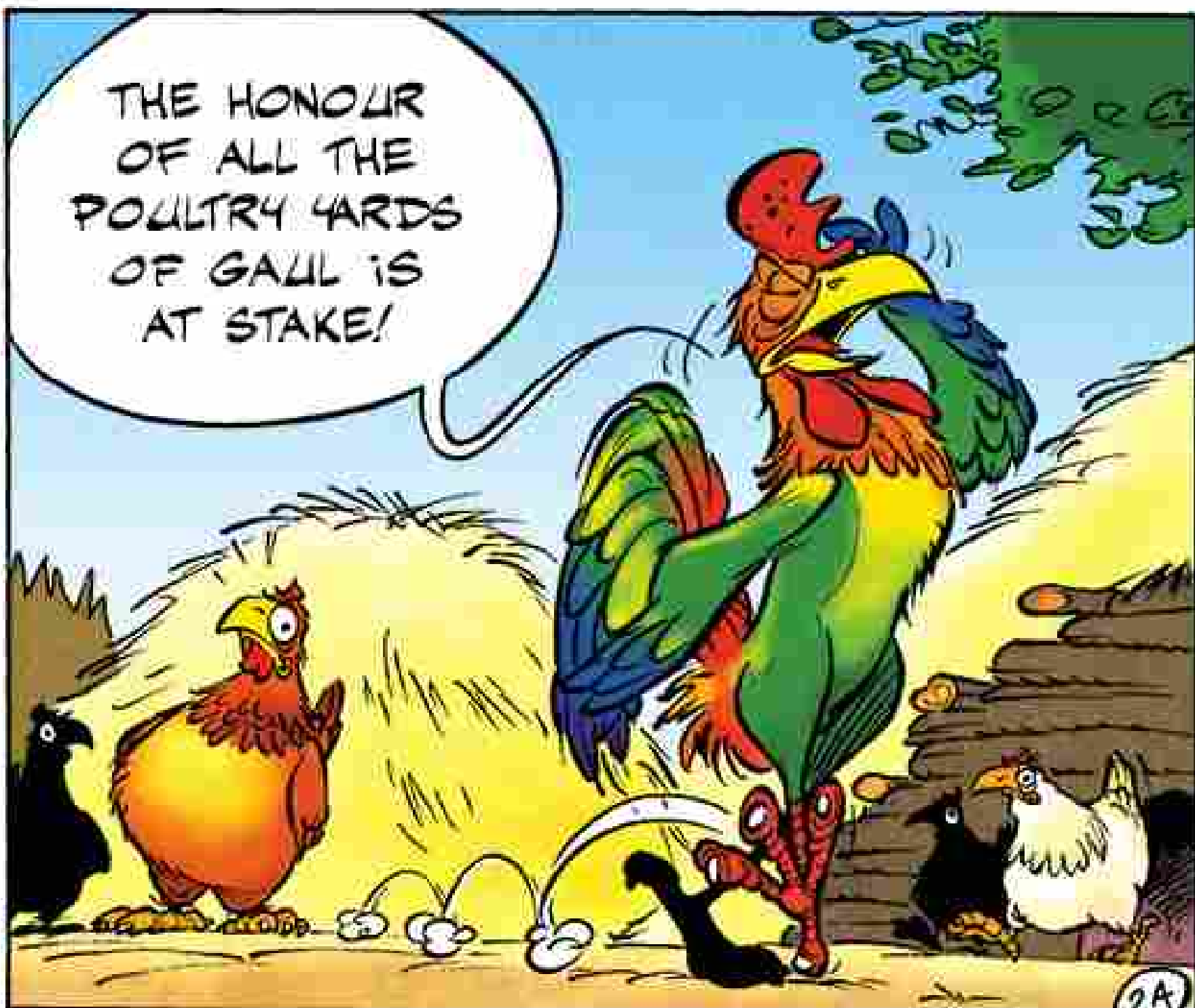
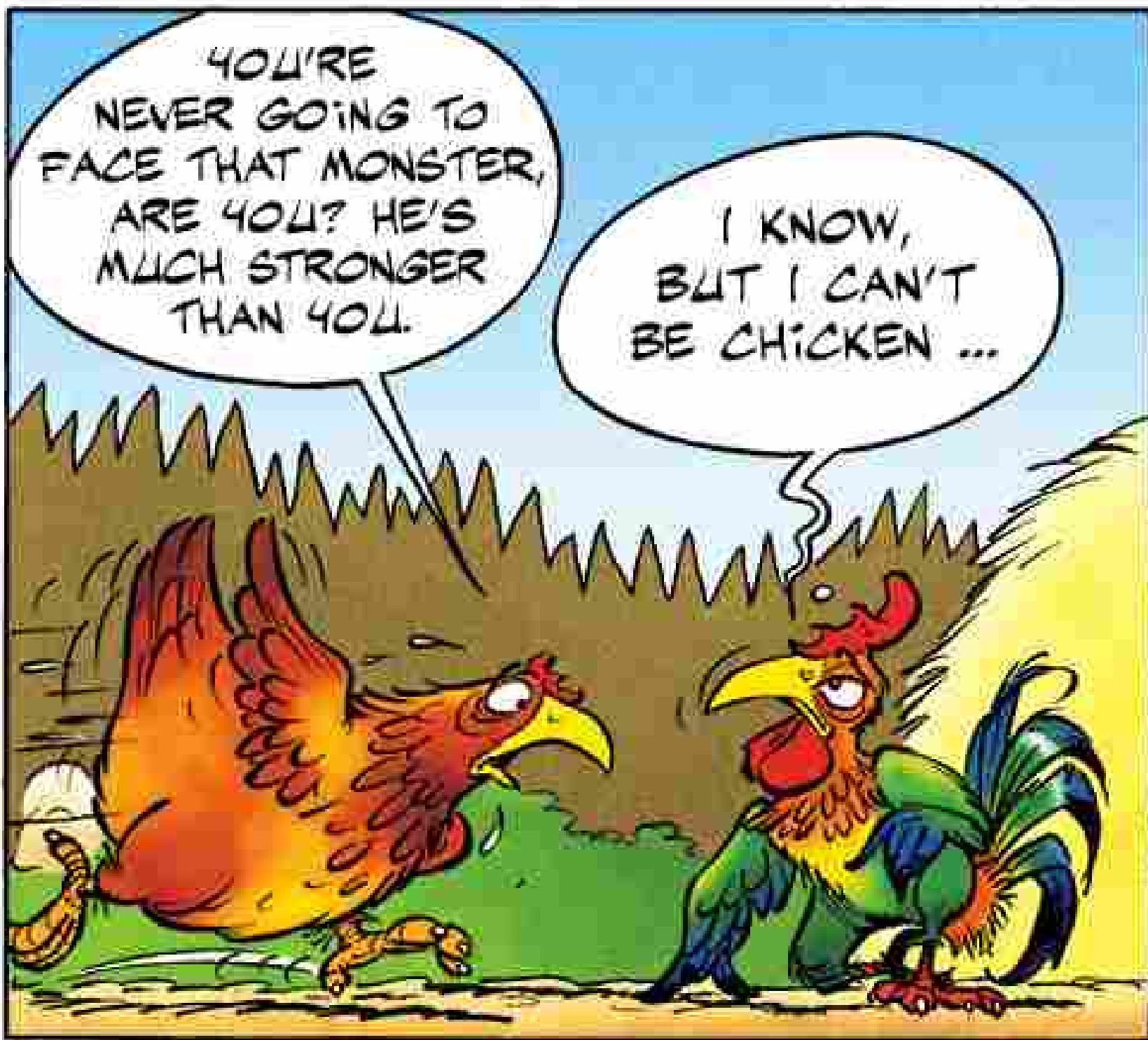
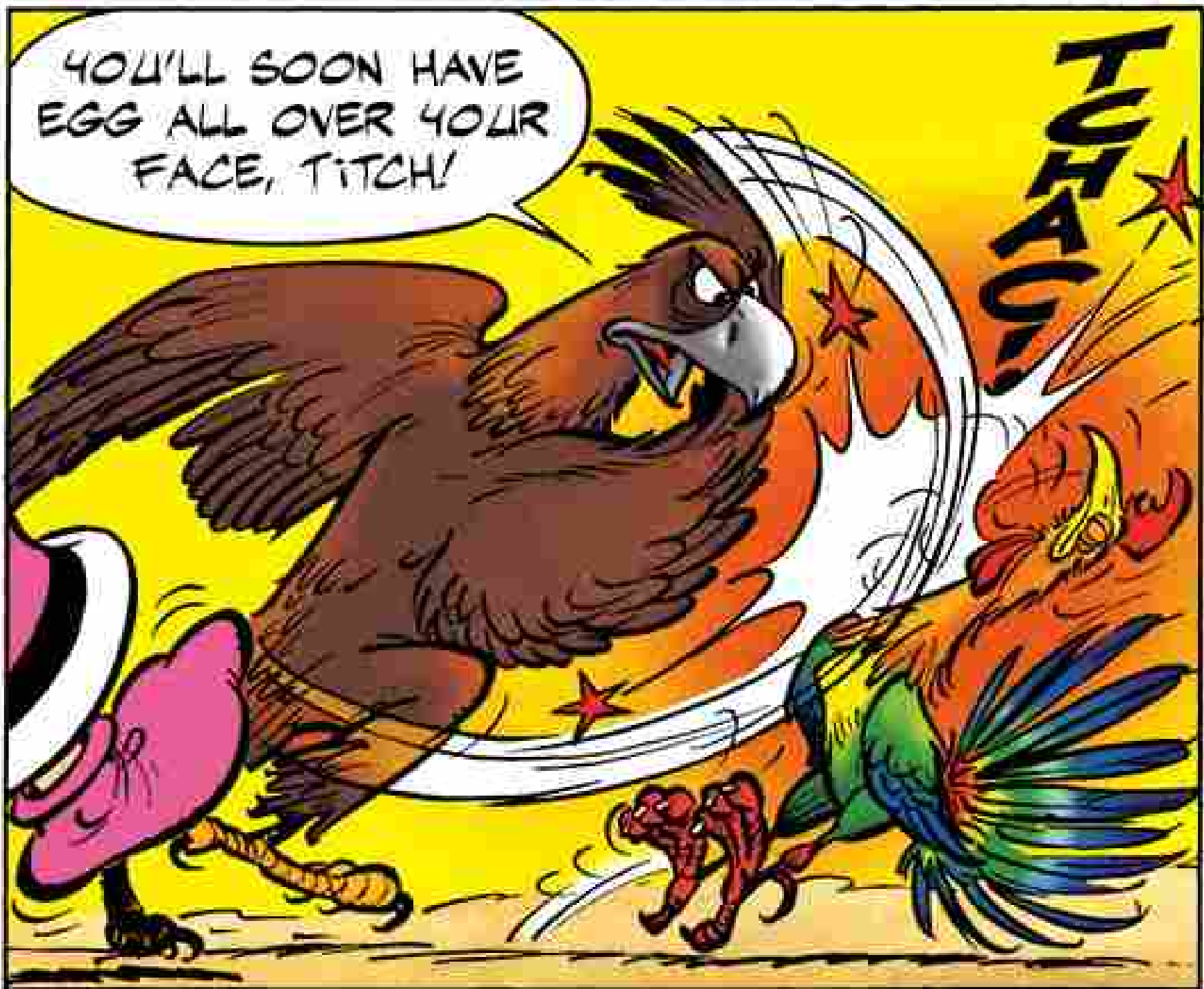
CHANTICLEERIX

THE Gaulish Cockerel

- UDERSO -

IT IS OFTEN THOUGHT THAT ANIMALS HAVE THEIR OWN LANGUAGE AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. WE SEE THE PROOF OF IT IN THE FOLLOWING STORY, WHICH BEGINS IN THE SKIES OF ARMORICA, JUST ABOVE A LITTLE VILLAGE THAT WE KNOW WELL.





AND NEXT MORNING AT DAWN ...

LET'S GO OUT IN THE FOREST AND PICK A FEW NICE BOARDS FOR BREAKFAST.

OOH, YES! I LOVE PICKING THEM OFF WITH THE MORNING DEW STILL ON THEM!

THAT'S ODD, OBELIX. DOGMATIX HASN'T COME HUNTING WITH US!

YES, HE'LL BE BARKING MAD WHEN HE FINDS OUT!

DOGMATIX

DOGMATIX

DOGMATIX

WHAT LUCK! ASTERIX DIDN'T TAKE IT WITH HIM.

THE MAGIC POTION!!! YOU DID IT, DOGMATIX!

YOU DUMB CLUCK!

WHERE'S CHANTICLEERIX?

FOLLOW ME! HE'S HIDING BEHIND THE HENHOUSE DOING PRESS-UPS!

DOGMATIX HAS BROUGHT YOU A SECRET WEAPON. YOU CAN DEFEAT YOUR IMPERIAL ENEMY WITH IT!

TWENTY-ONE, TWENTY-TWO ... WHAT IS IT? TWENTY-THREE, TWENTY ...

MAGIC POTION!

!?

ER ... ARE YOU SURE POTION GOES WELL WITH CHICKEN?

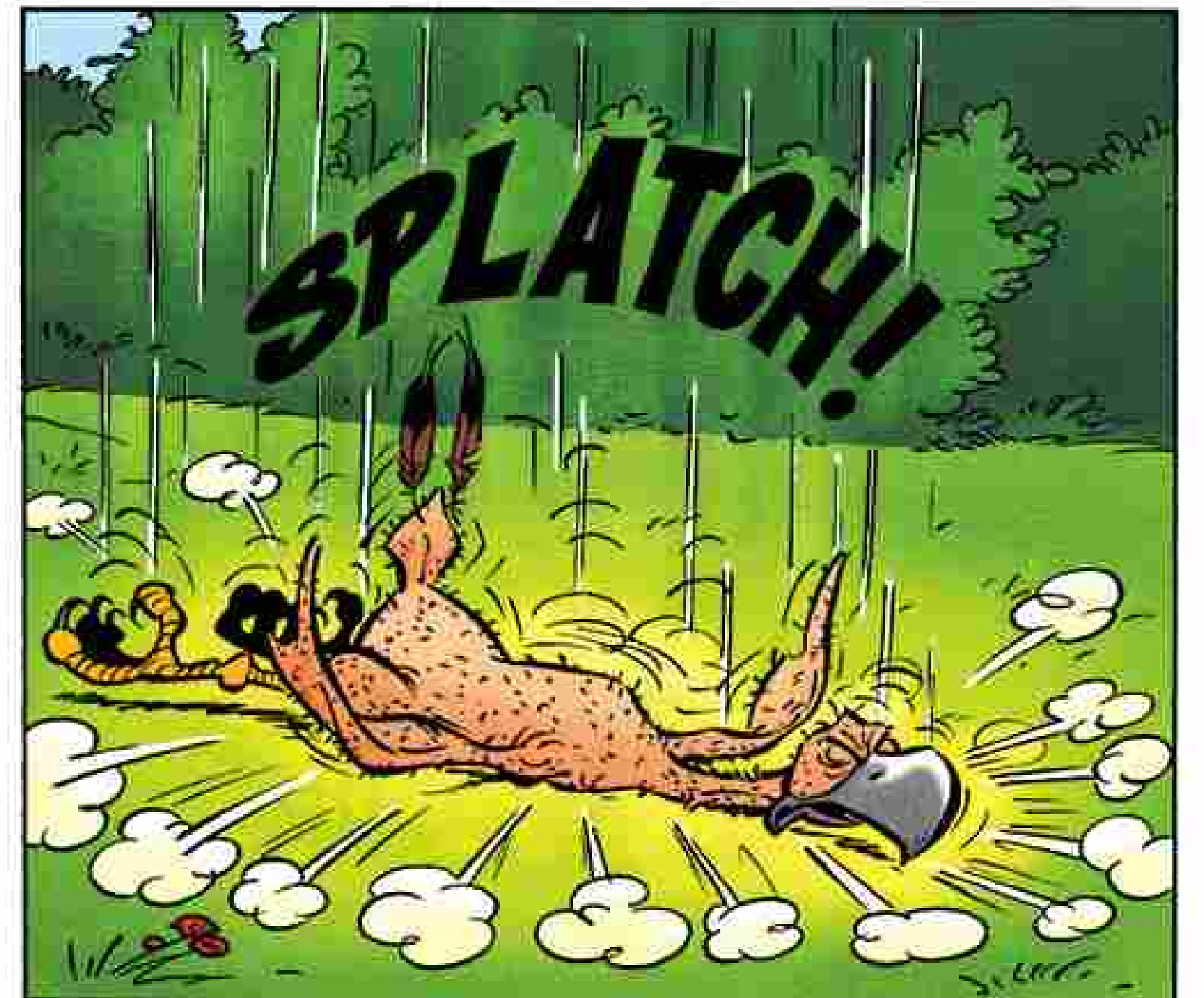
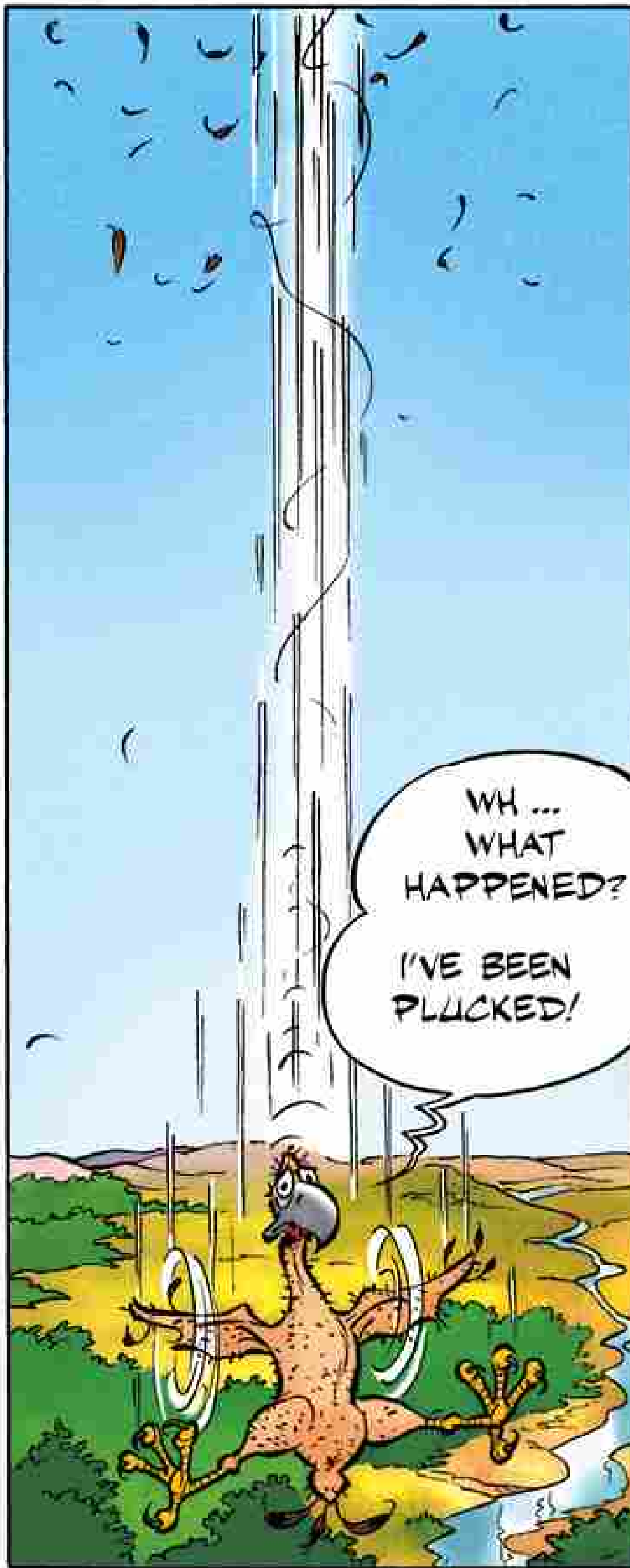
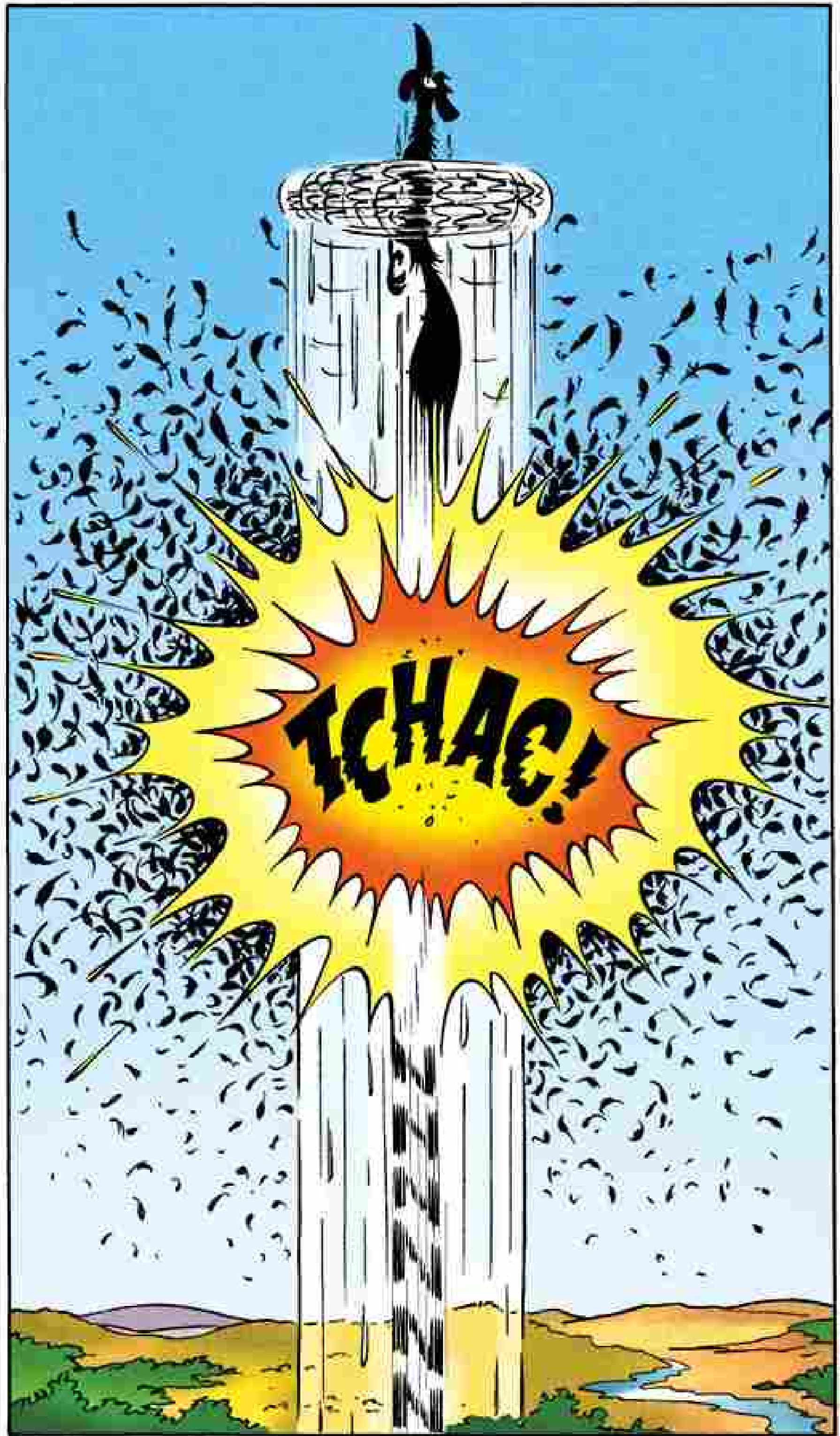
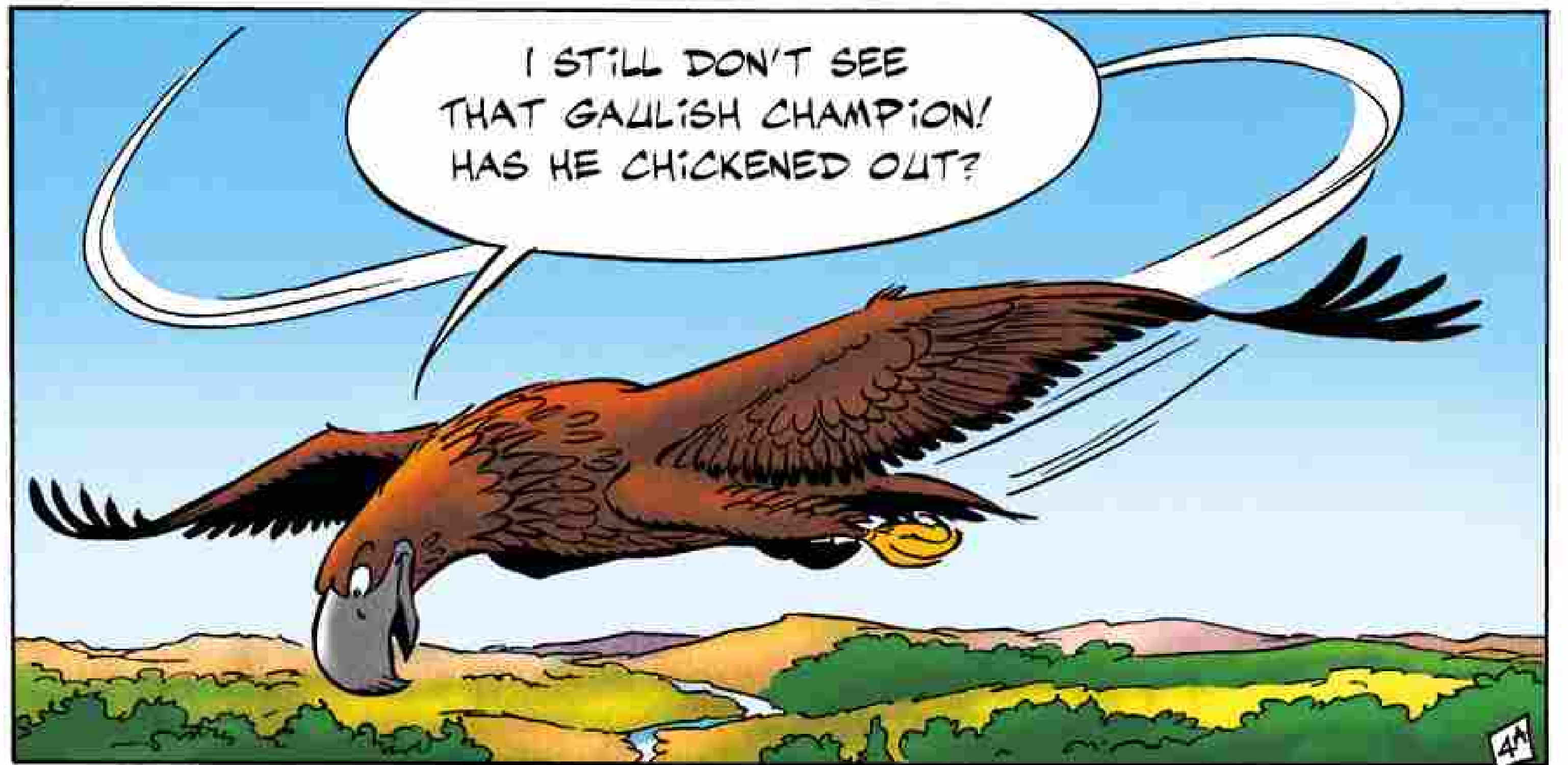
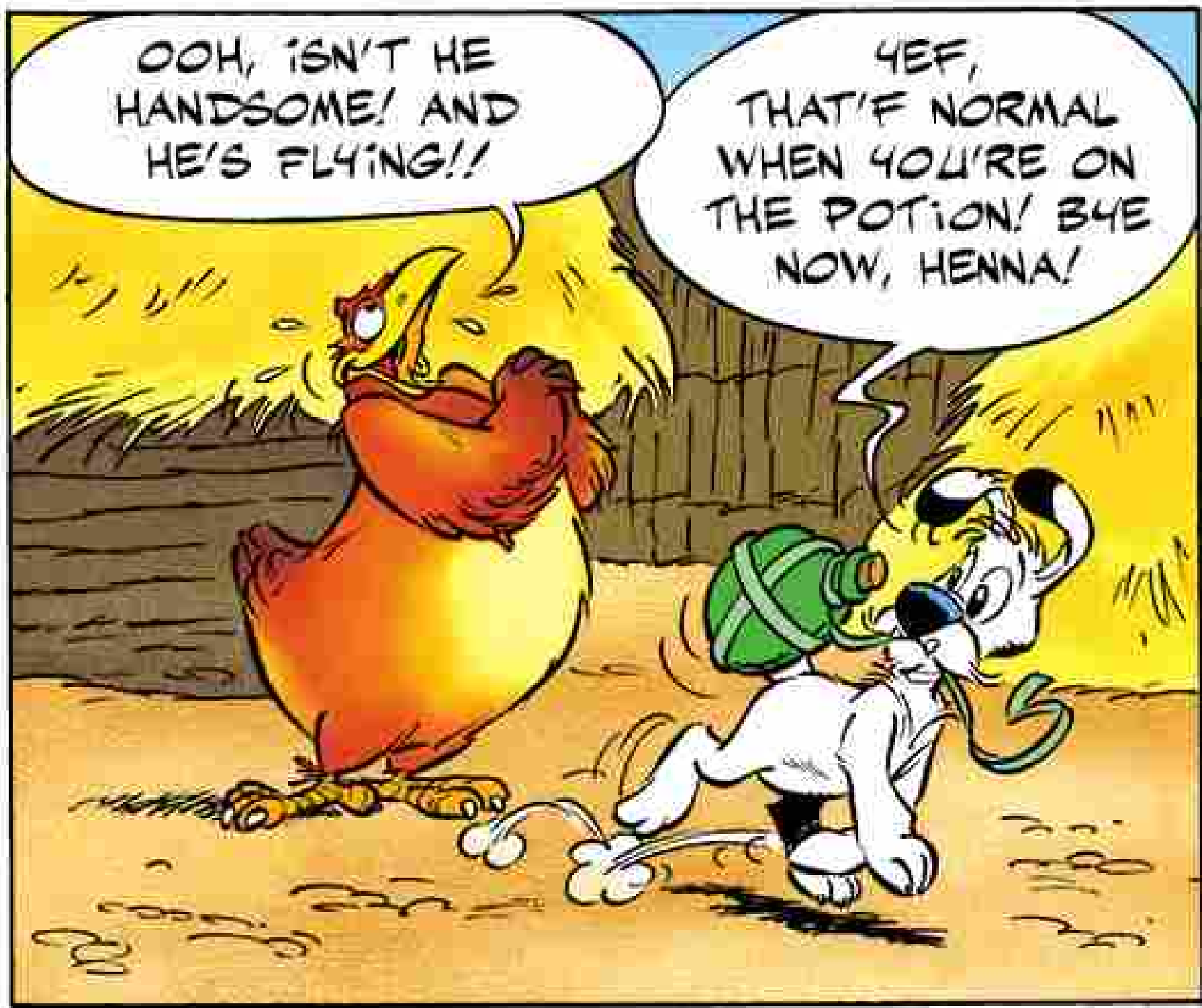
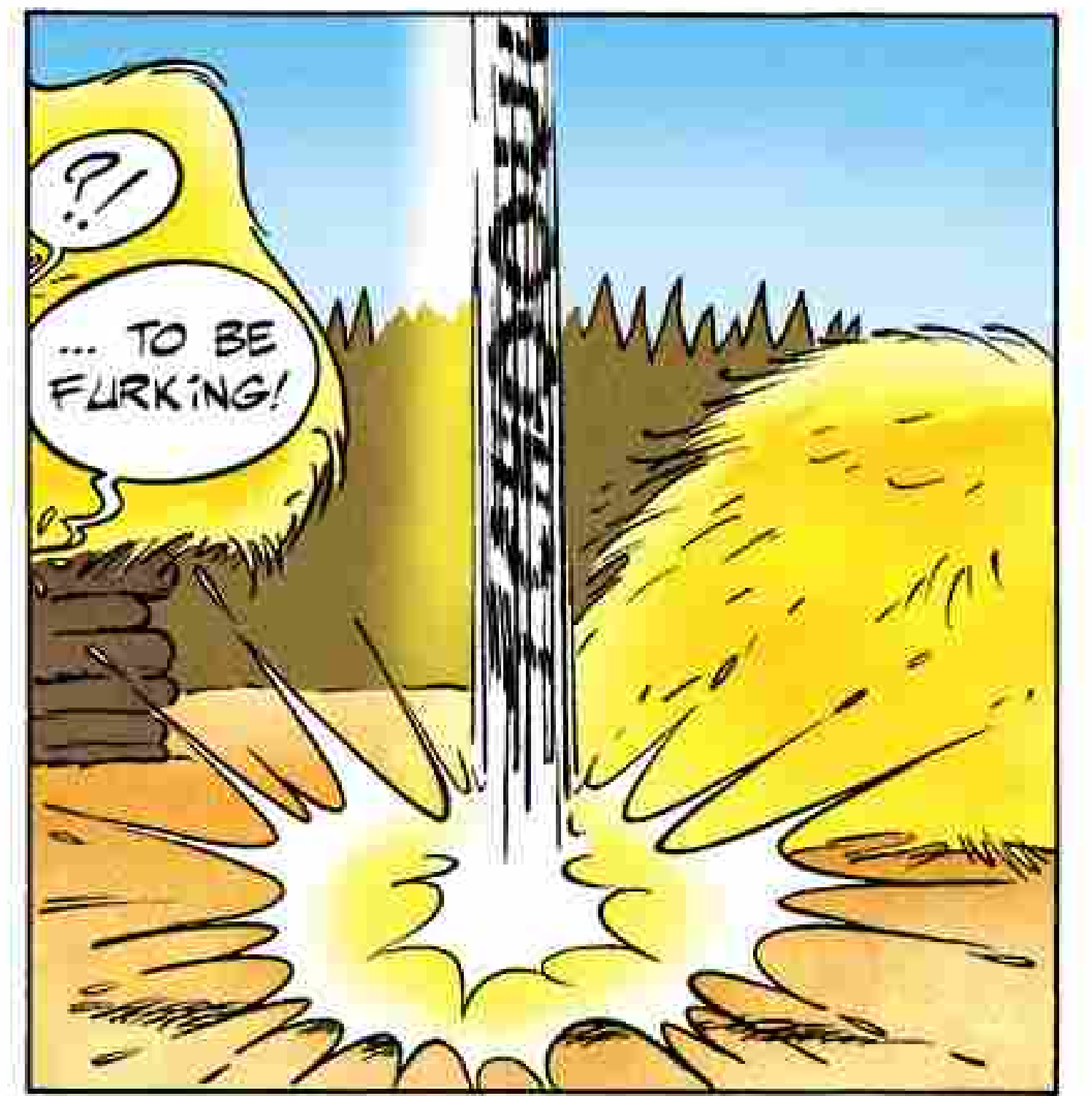
DUNNO ... IT'S A RISK YOU HAVE TO TAKE!

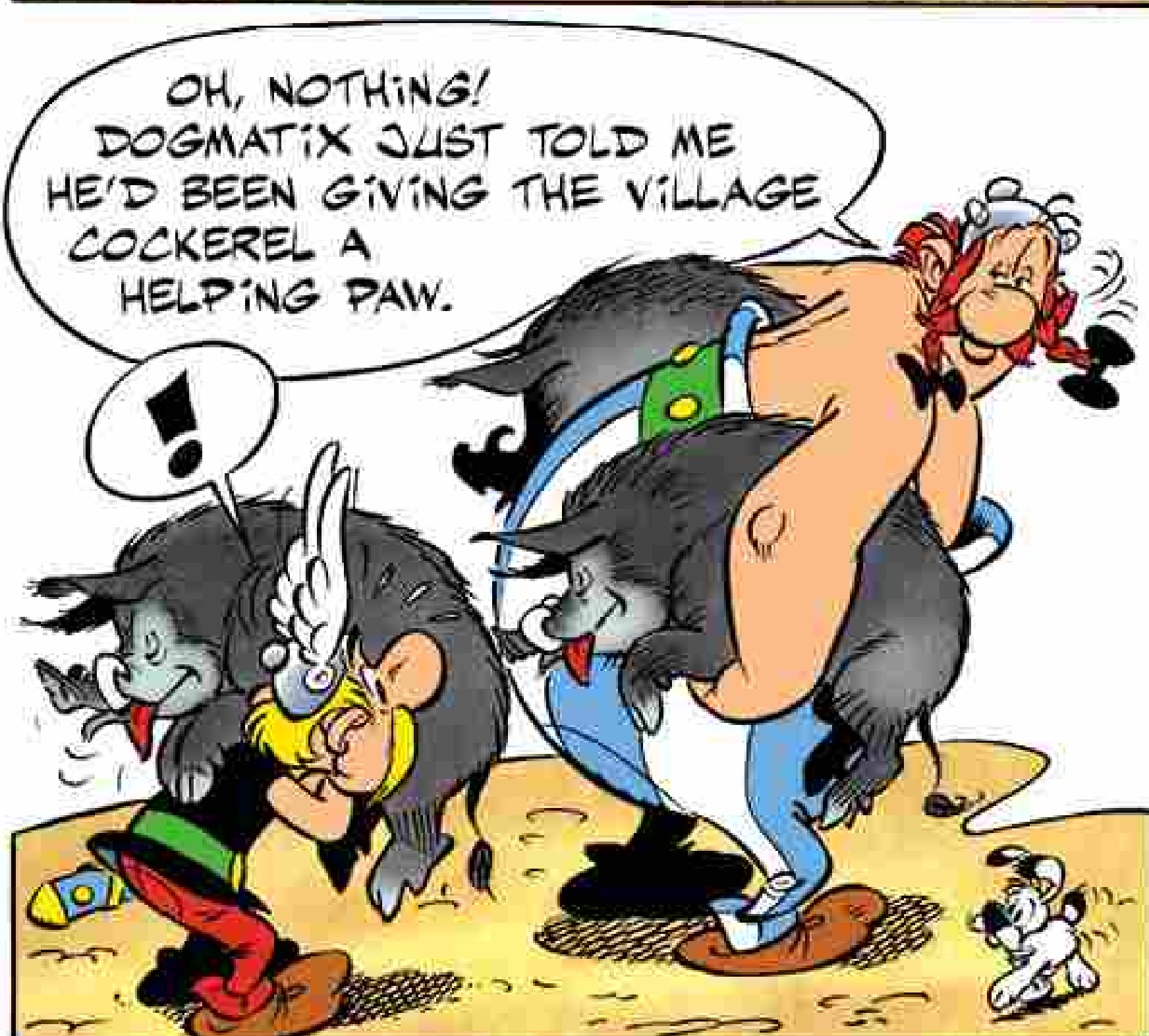
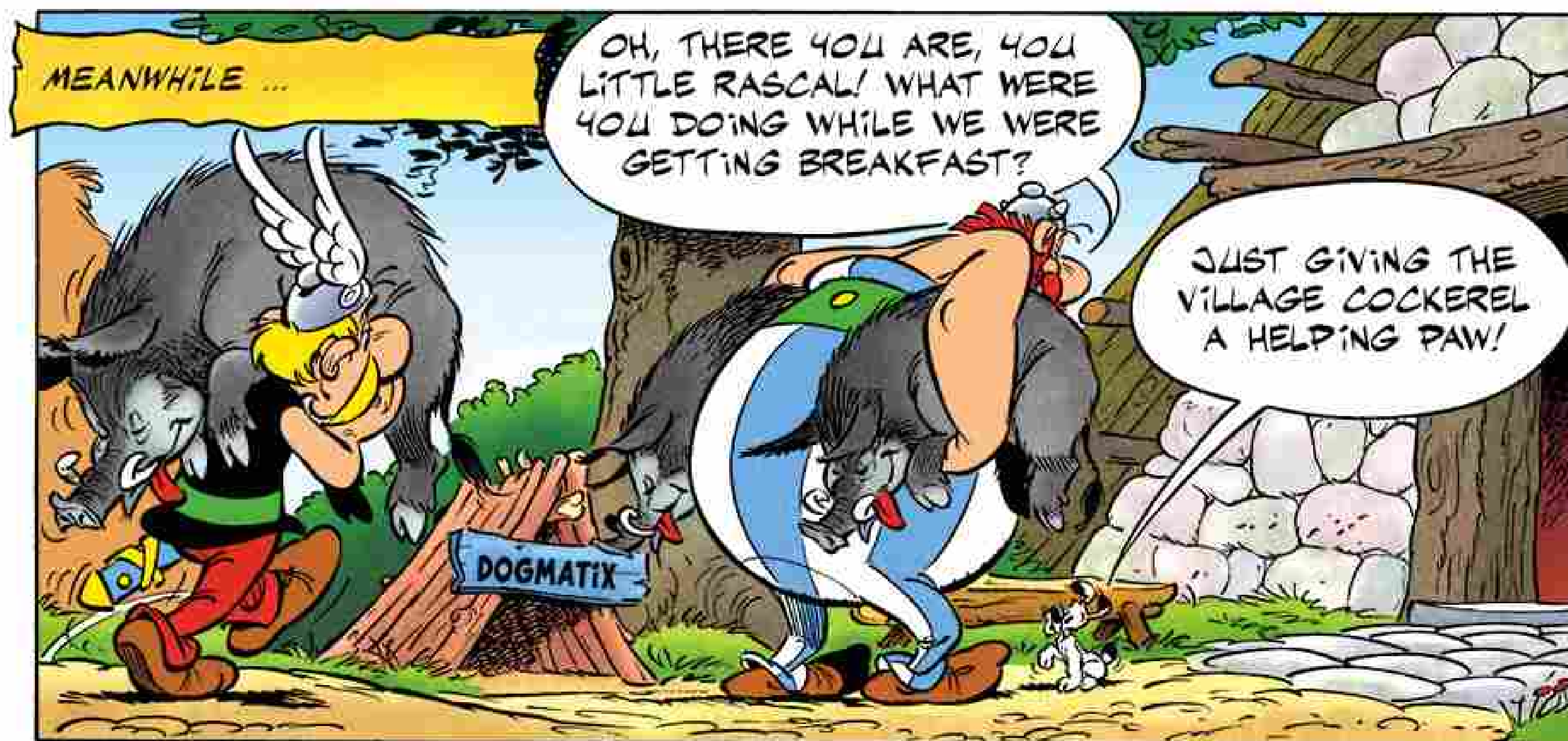
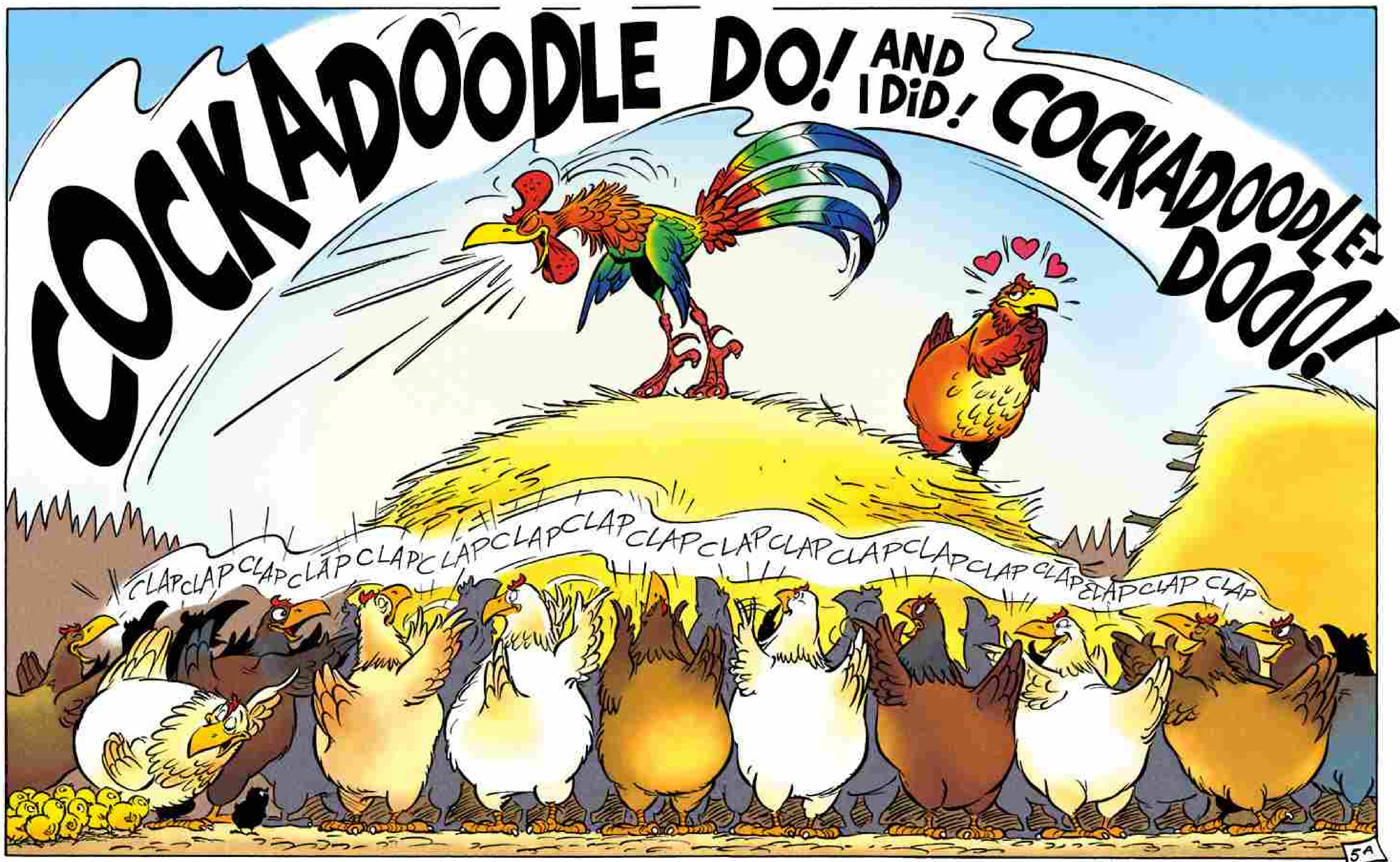
HEY... NO SKIVING OFF! THE VILLAGERS NEED THEIR ALARM CALL!

OKAY, OKAY ... COCKADOODLE DO! THAT DO YOU?

I'LL TAKE THE GOURD BACK BEFORE ASTERIX NOTICES THAT IT'S GONE!

GLUG! GLUG!





- 4DER20 - THE END

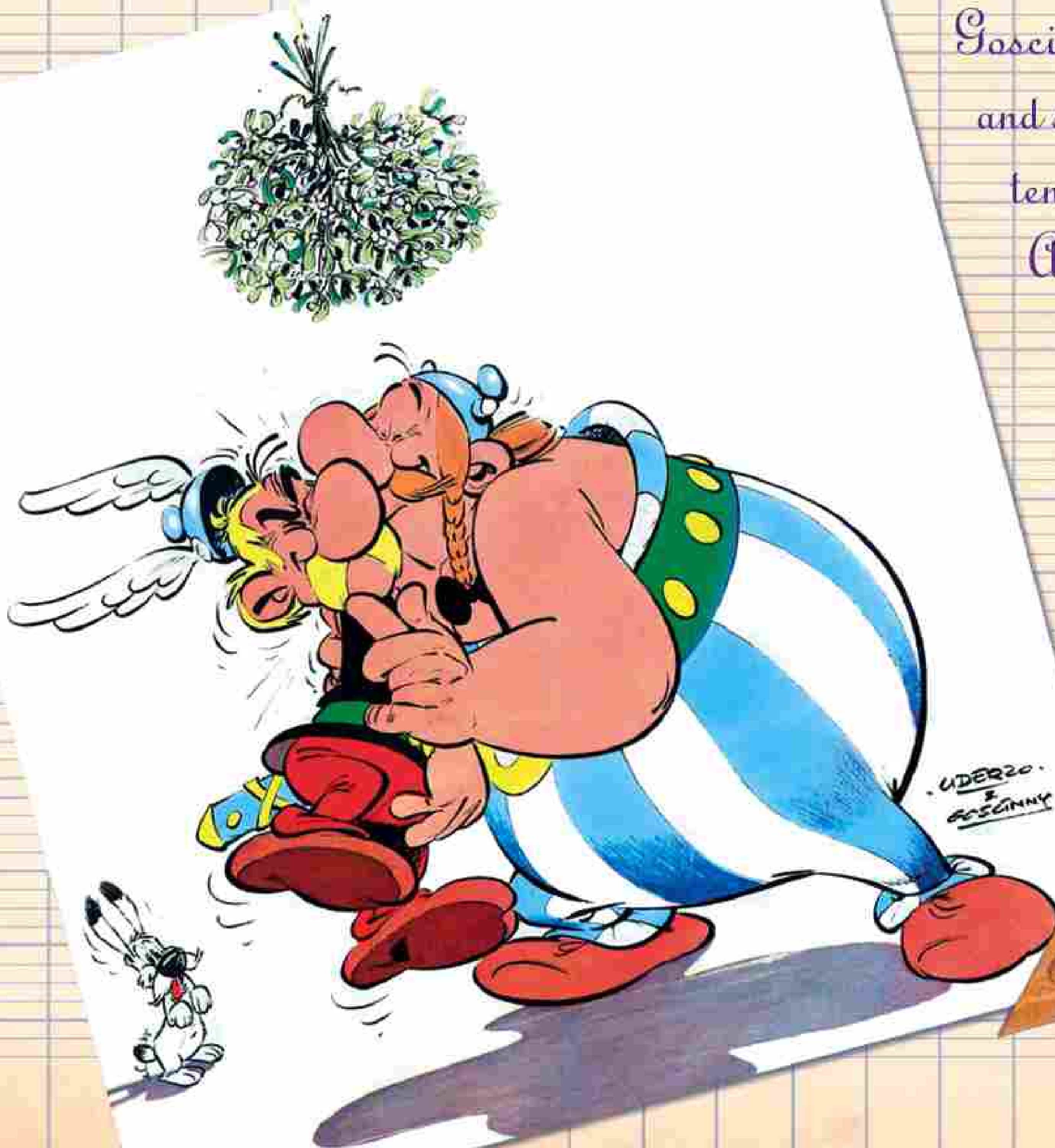
For Gaul Lang Syne
07 December 1967

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

The issue of "Pilote" published at the end of the year always had to be about New Year customs...

This time René thought it would be a good idea if the Gauls joined in. He suggested to Albert reinventing an old custom dating back to Druid traditions: kissing under the mistletoe. In "Asterix the Legionary" Obelix fell in love with the beautiful Panacea, so the authors enjoyed going back to the subject. This time Obelix actually dares to try snatching a kiss, a very unusual situation for him...

... but a skillful move thwarts his intentions. In condensed form, this story expresses all René Goscinny's delicacy of feeling and sense of humour, and the tender, beautiful line of Albert Uderzo's drawing.



"Pilote", n° 424

for Gaul Lang Syne

UDERZO & GOSCINNY

THE ANCIENT GAULS HAD SOME CHARMING NEW YEAR CUSTOMS...

WHEN TWO GAULS MET UNDER THE MISTLETOE THEY KISSED EACH OTHER

KISS KISS
SMACK!

IN FACT IT WAS COMPULSORY FOR GAULS TO KISS WHEN THEY MET

BUT I WAS SINGING, SO I ...

SINGING? YOU COULD HAVE FOOLED ME! WELL, THAT WAS YOUR KISMET!

THESE PLEASING ENCOUNTERS WERE SHEER COINCIDENCE

GO AND PLAY, DOGMATIX! GO ON, PLAY WITH ASTERIX! I'M BUSY! THIS IS NOT FOR THE EYES OF LITTLE DOGS!

?

BUT SOME UNSCRUPULOUS GAULS LENT COINCIDENCE A HELPING HAND

GOOD, HERE COMES PANACEA! OFF WE GO!

1

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, PANACEA?

I'M JUST TAKING OUR DRUID GETAFIX SOME DRY FIREWOOD.

I'M GOING THAT WAY! I'LL TAKE IT FOR YOU.

OH, THANKS, SCARLATINA!

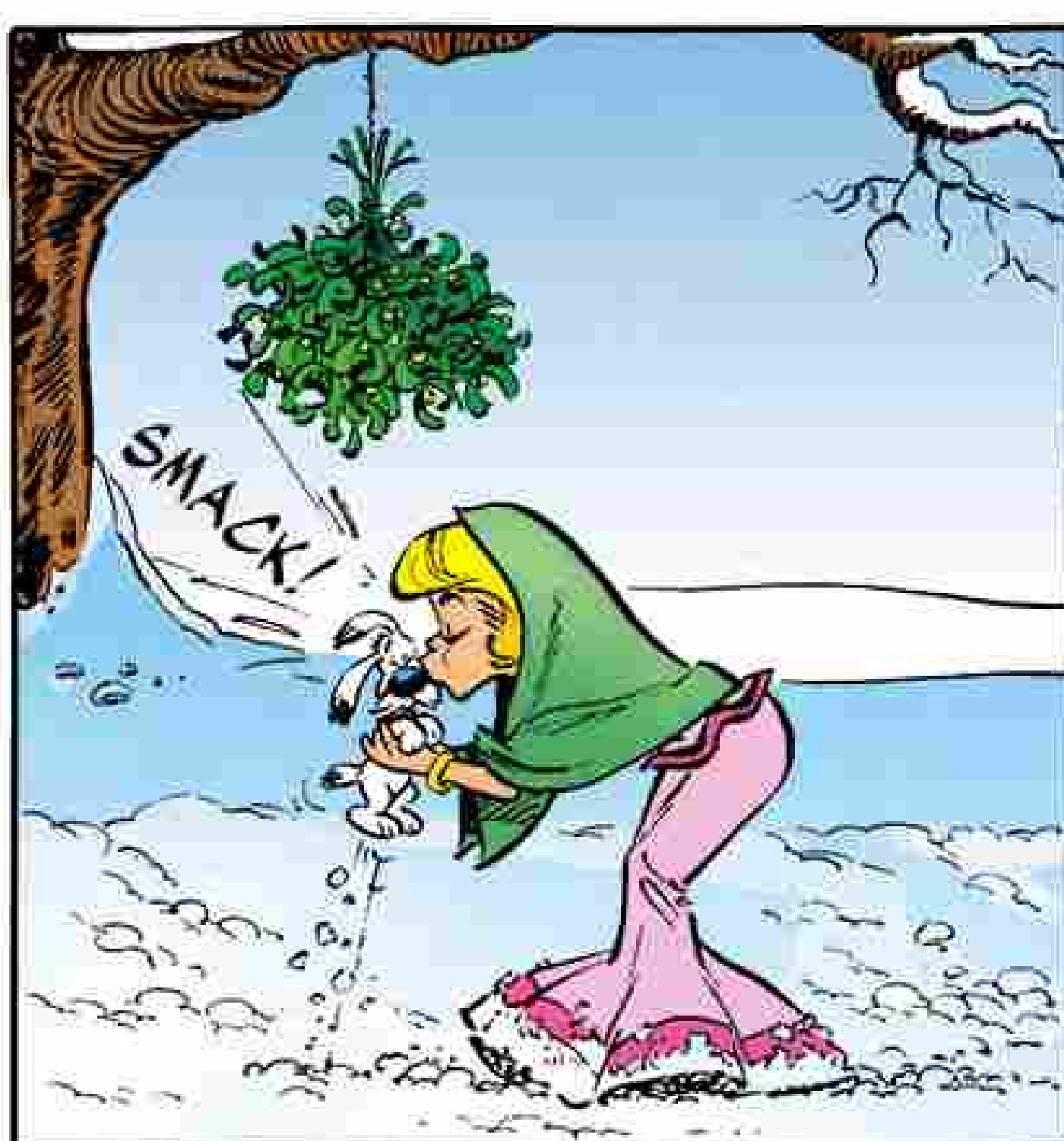
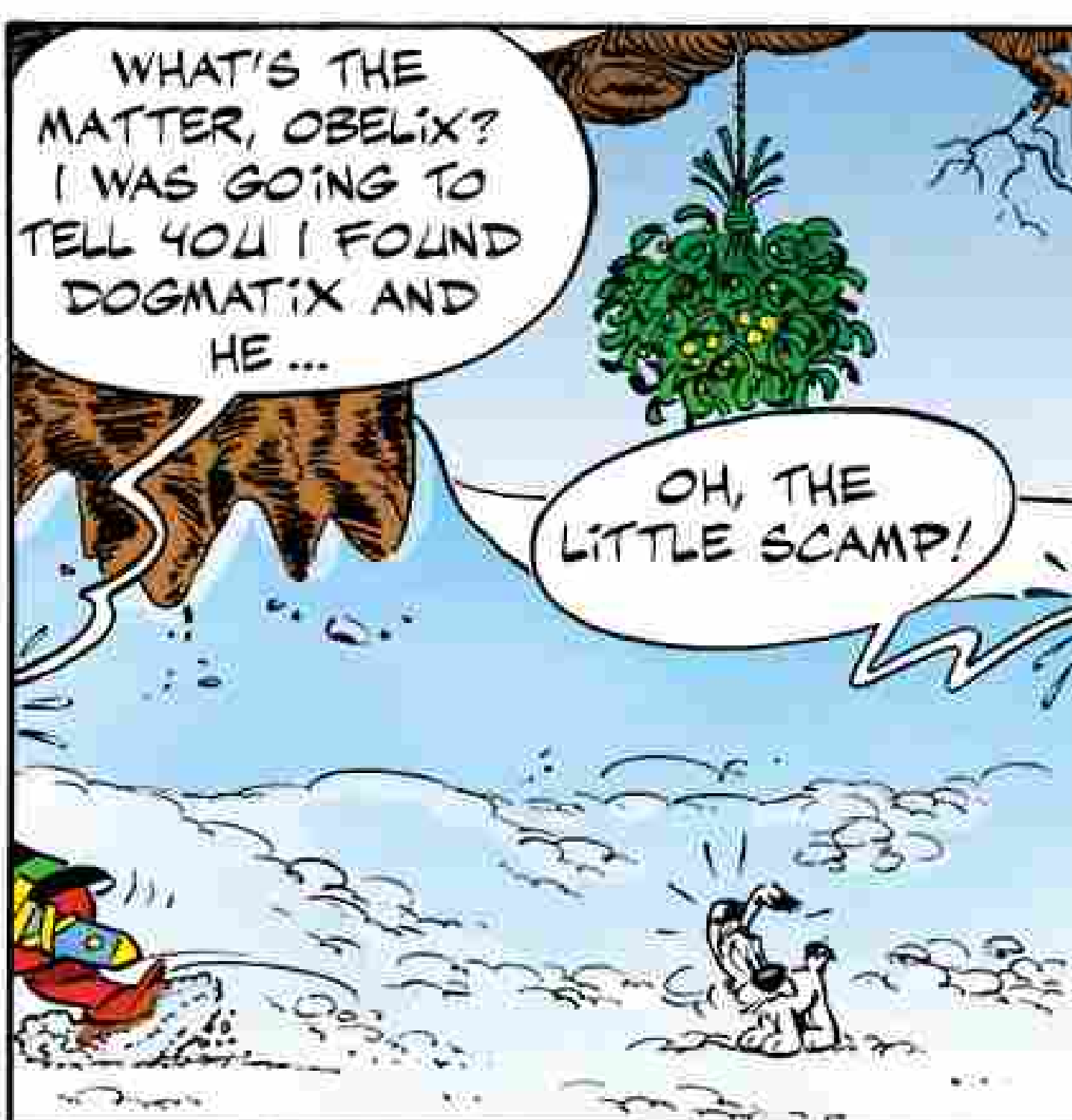
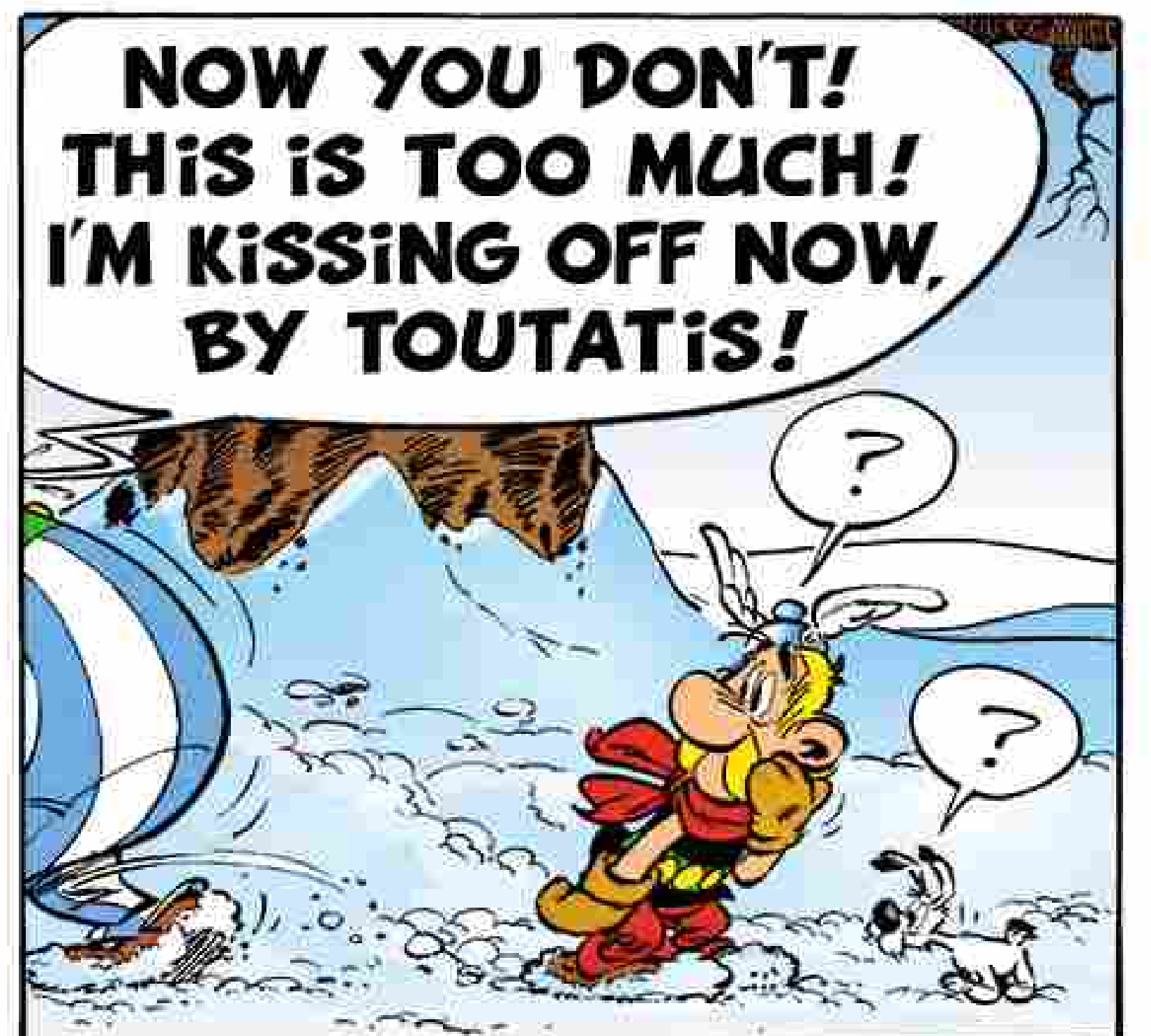
KISS KISS
SMACK!

OOH, I SAY, OBELIX!

?!

CAESAR'S GIVEN ORDERS. WE'RE TO RESPECT THE LOCAL CUSTOMS OF OCCUPIED COUNTRIES. SO I'M RESPECTING THEM!

2



Mini Midi Maxi

02 August 1971

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

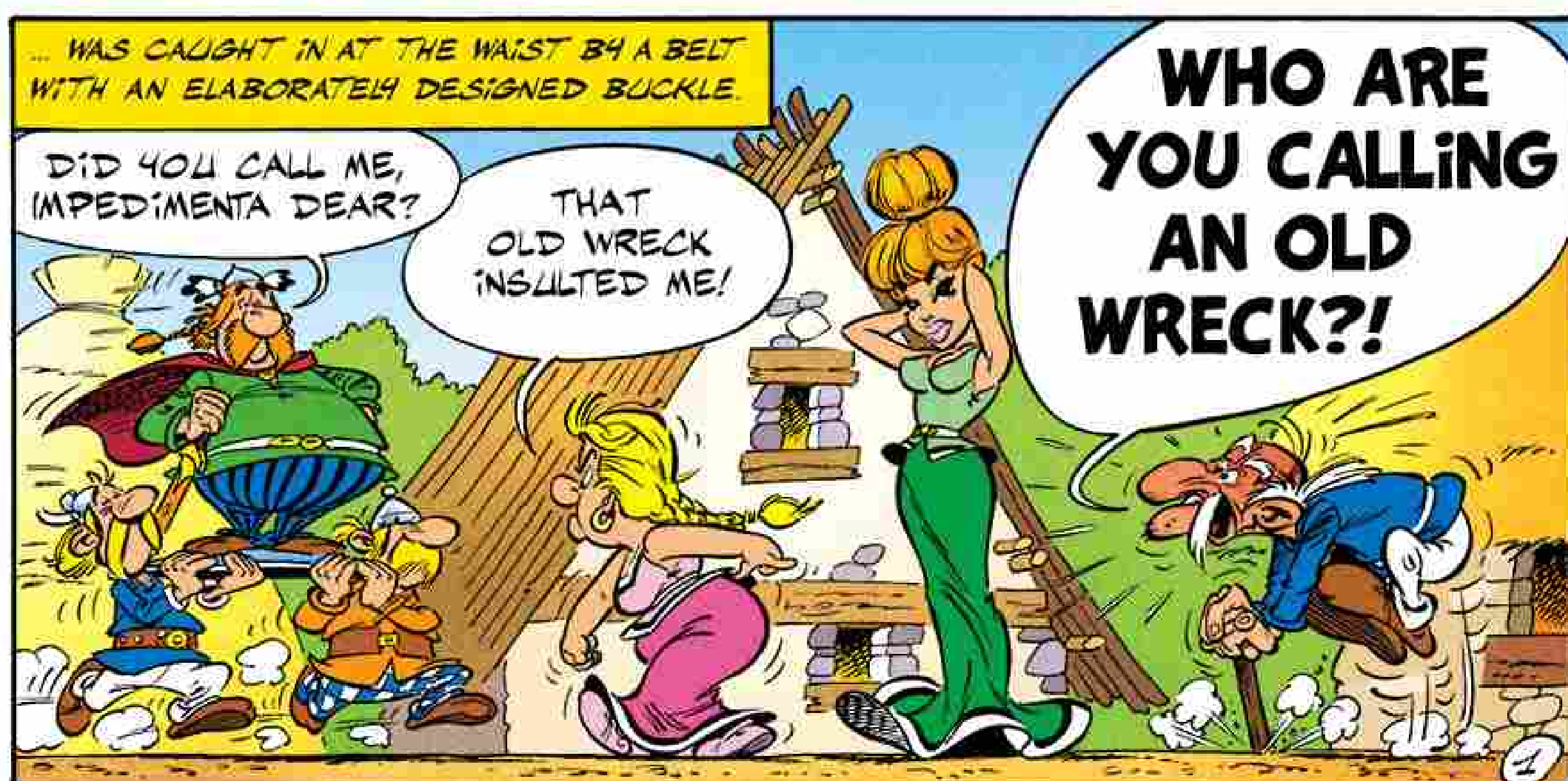
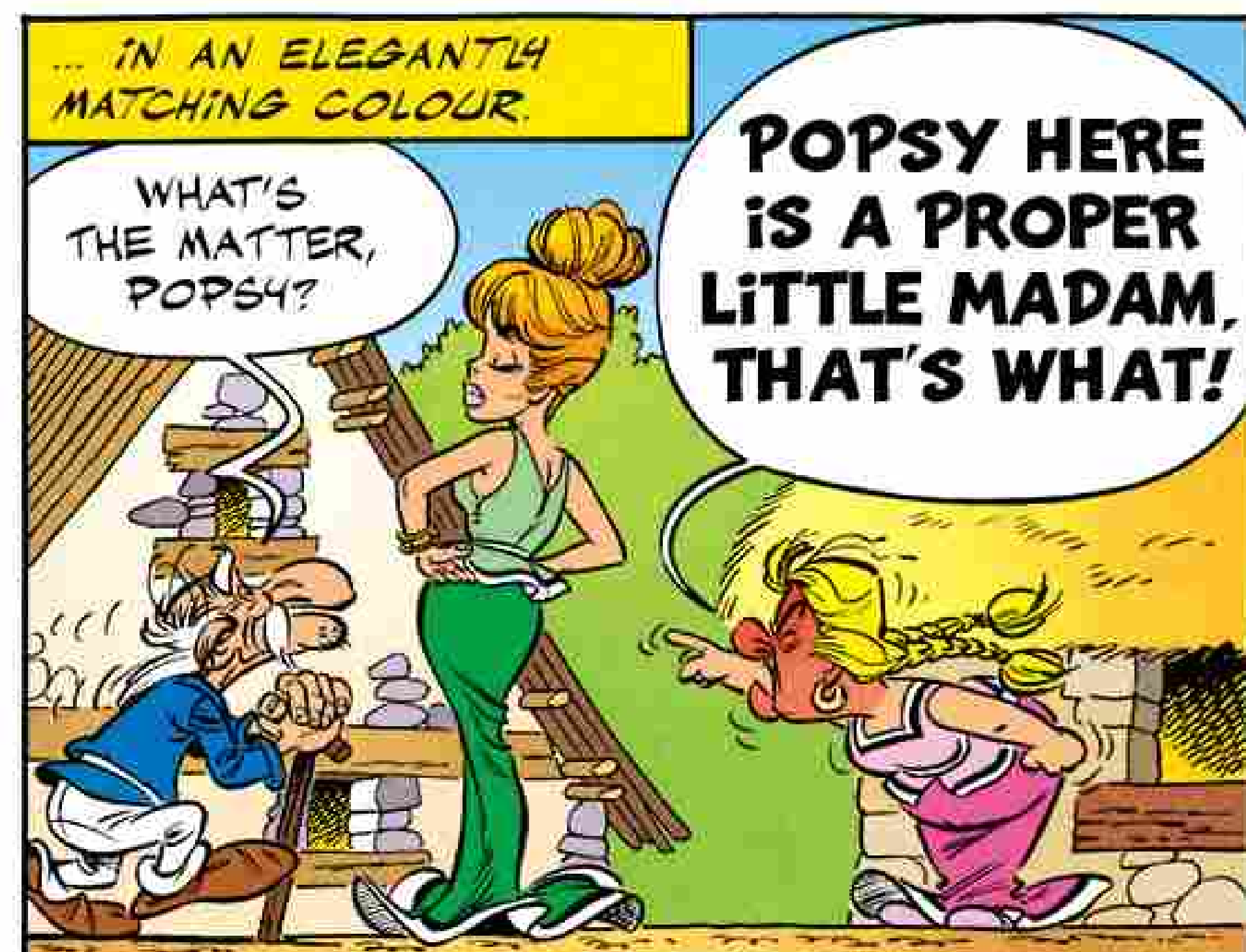
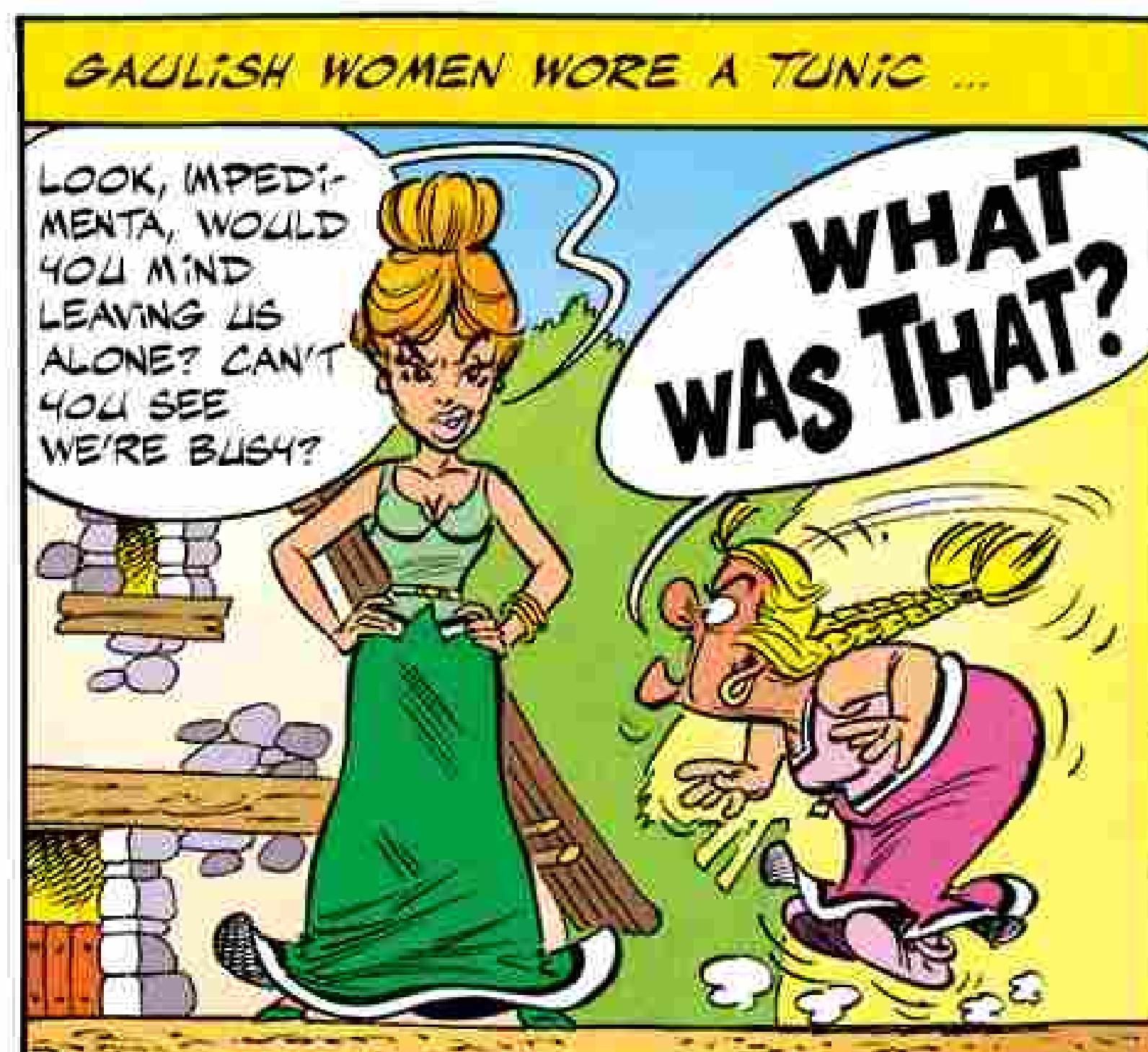
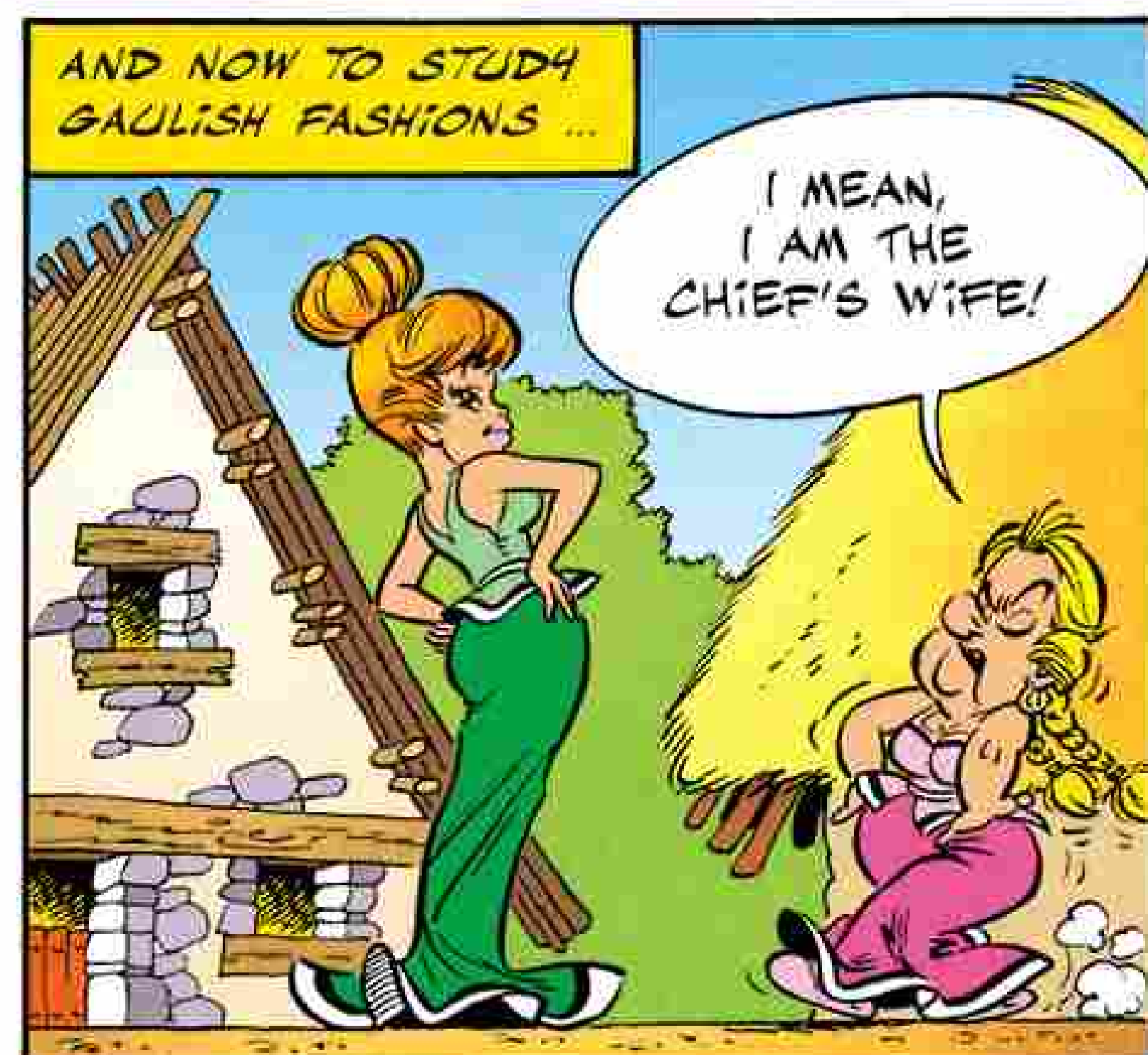
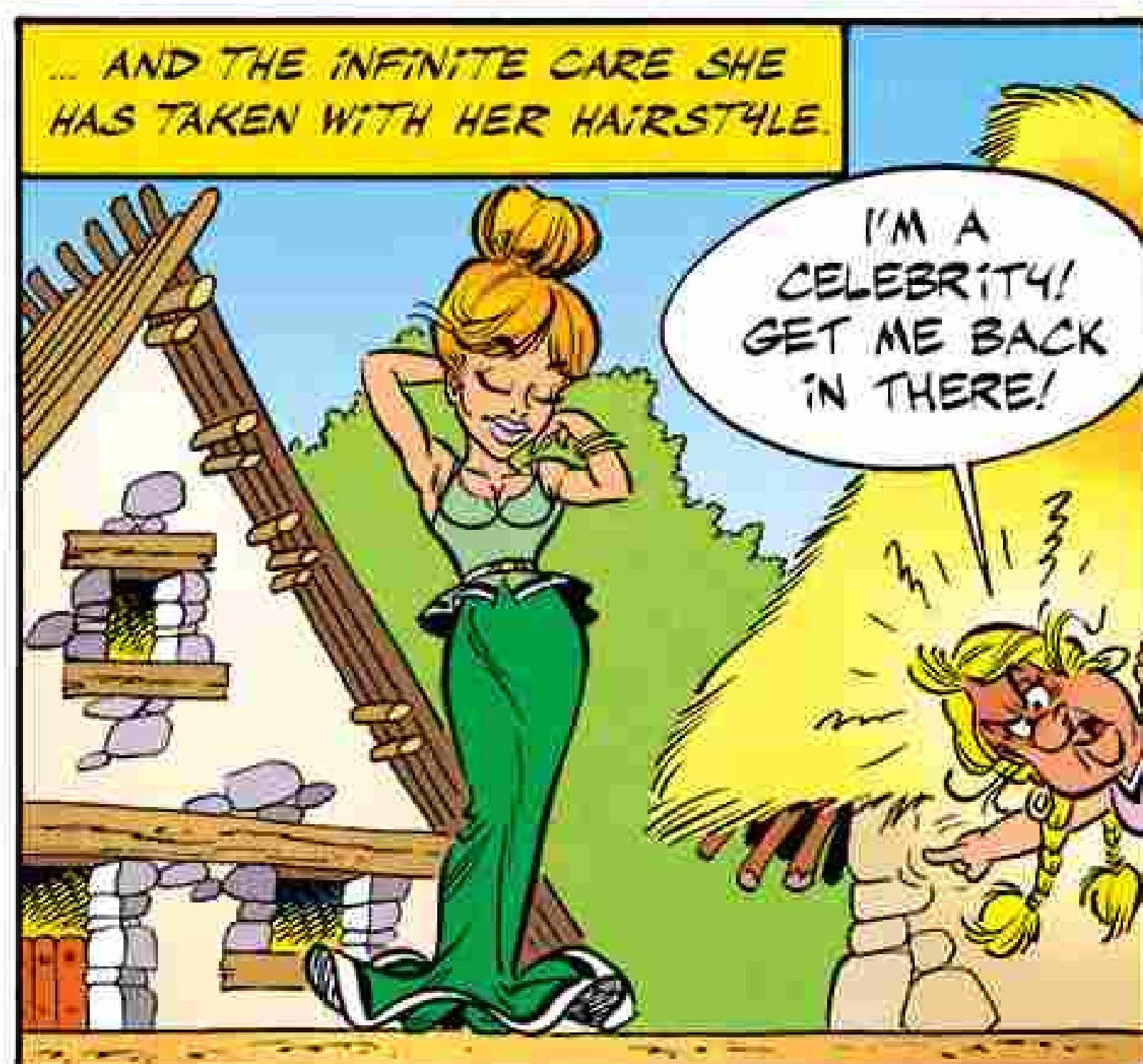
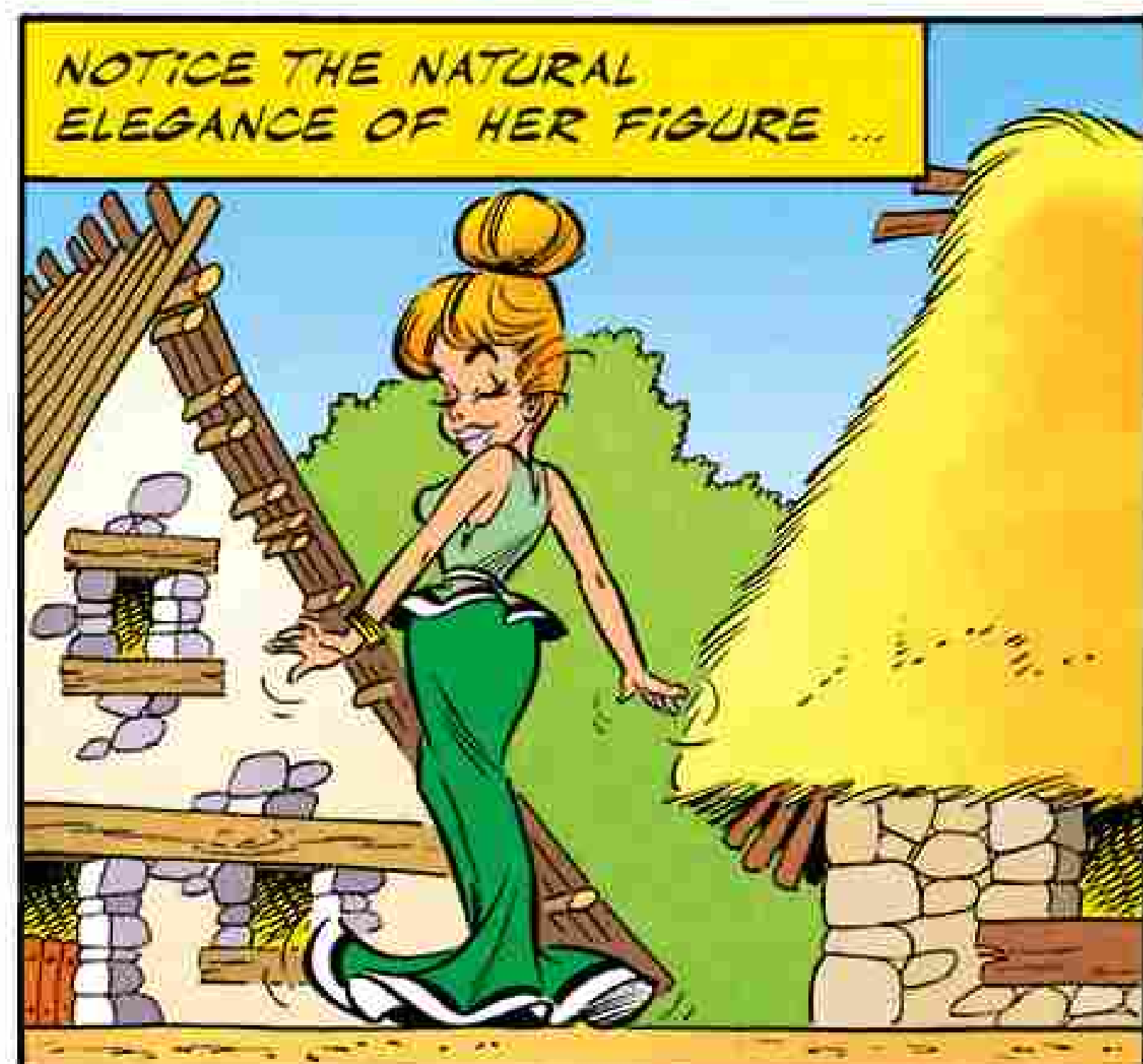
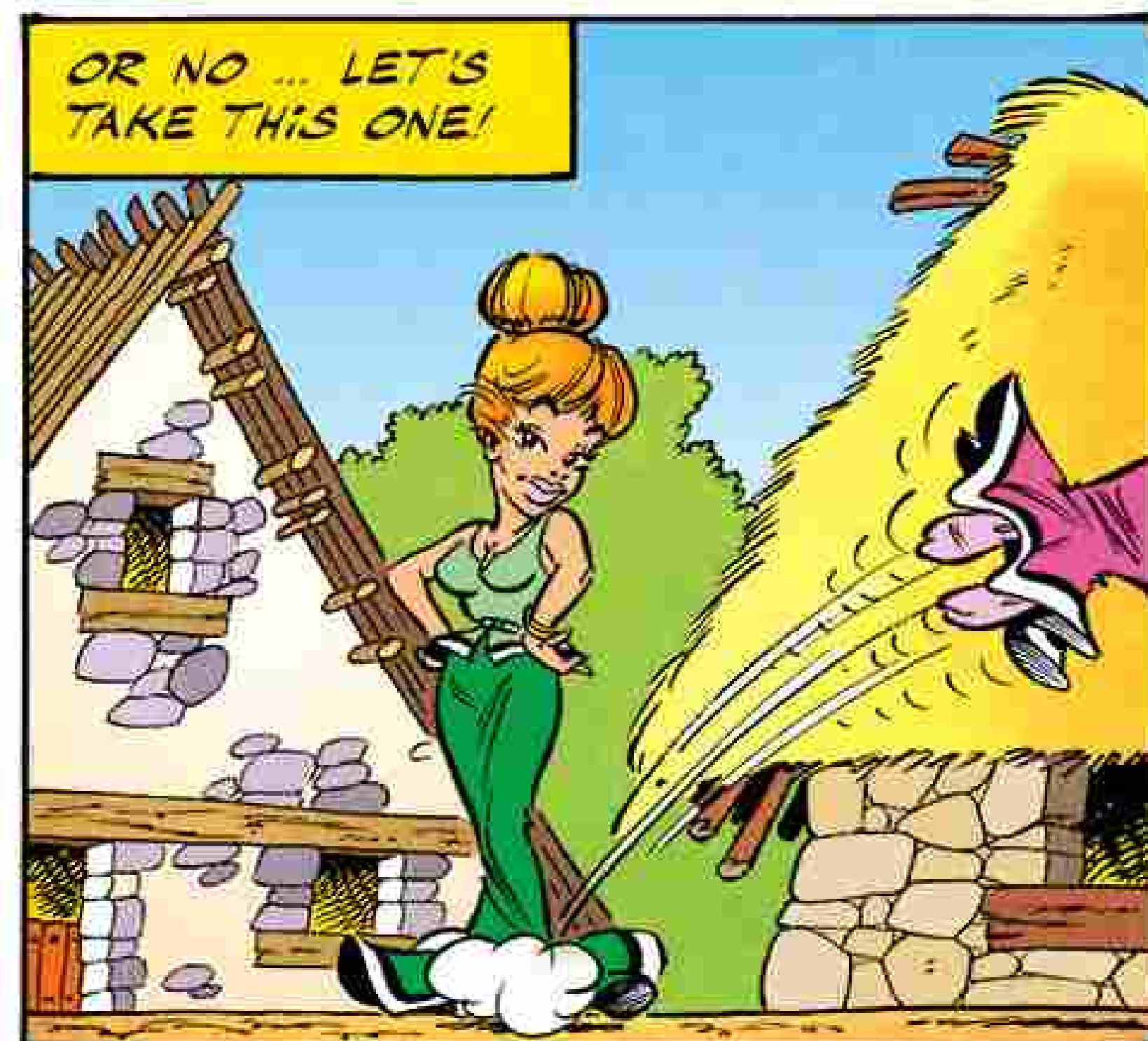
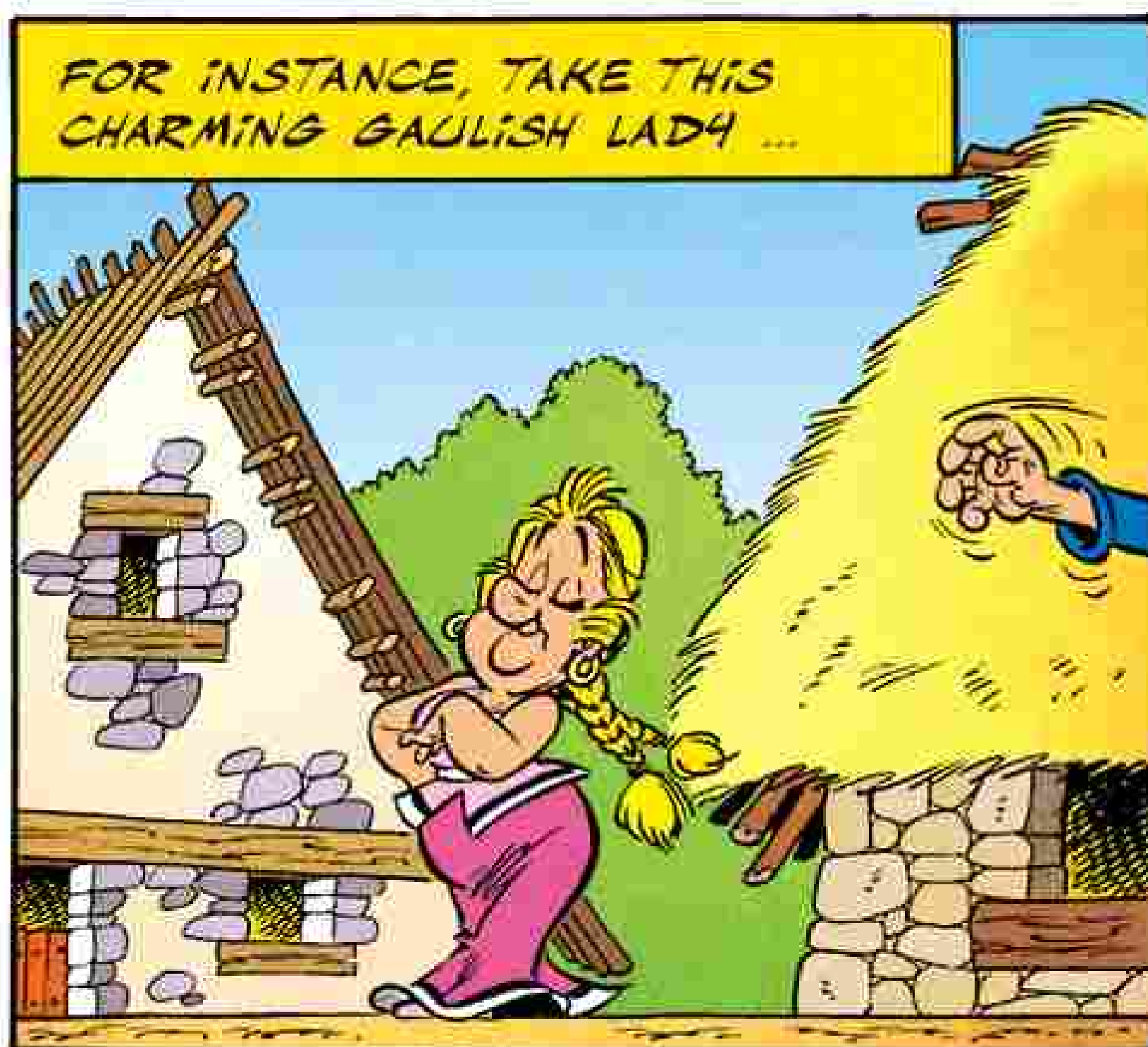
In view of the huge success of Asterix and his friends, the weekly magazine "Elle" asked the authors to provide a story on a women's subject for one of their summer issues.

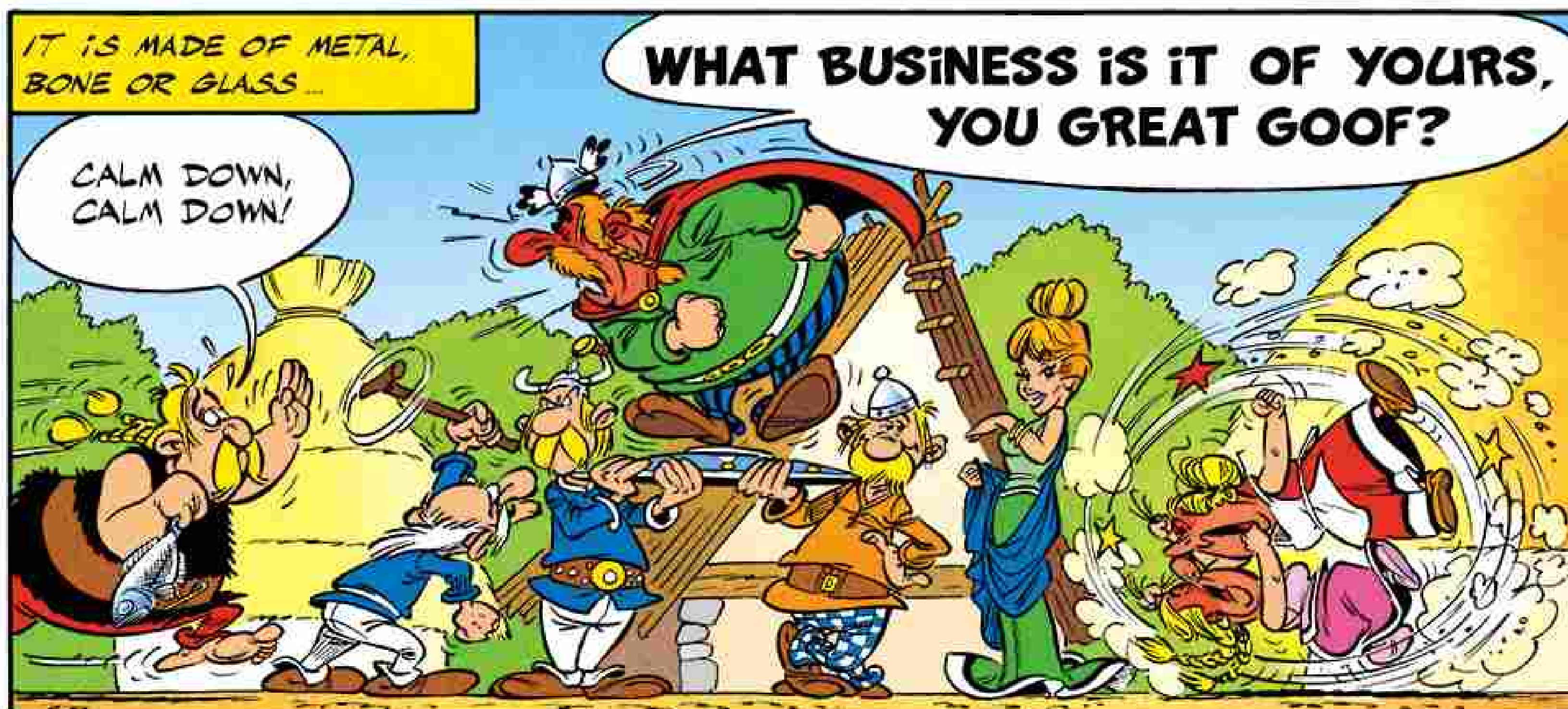
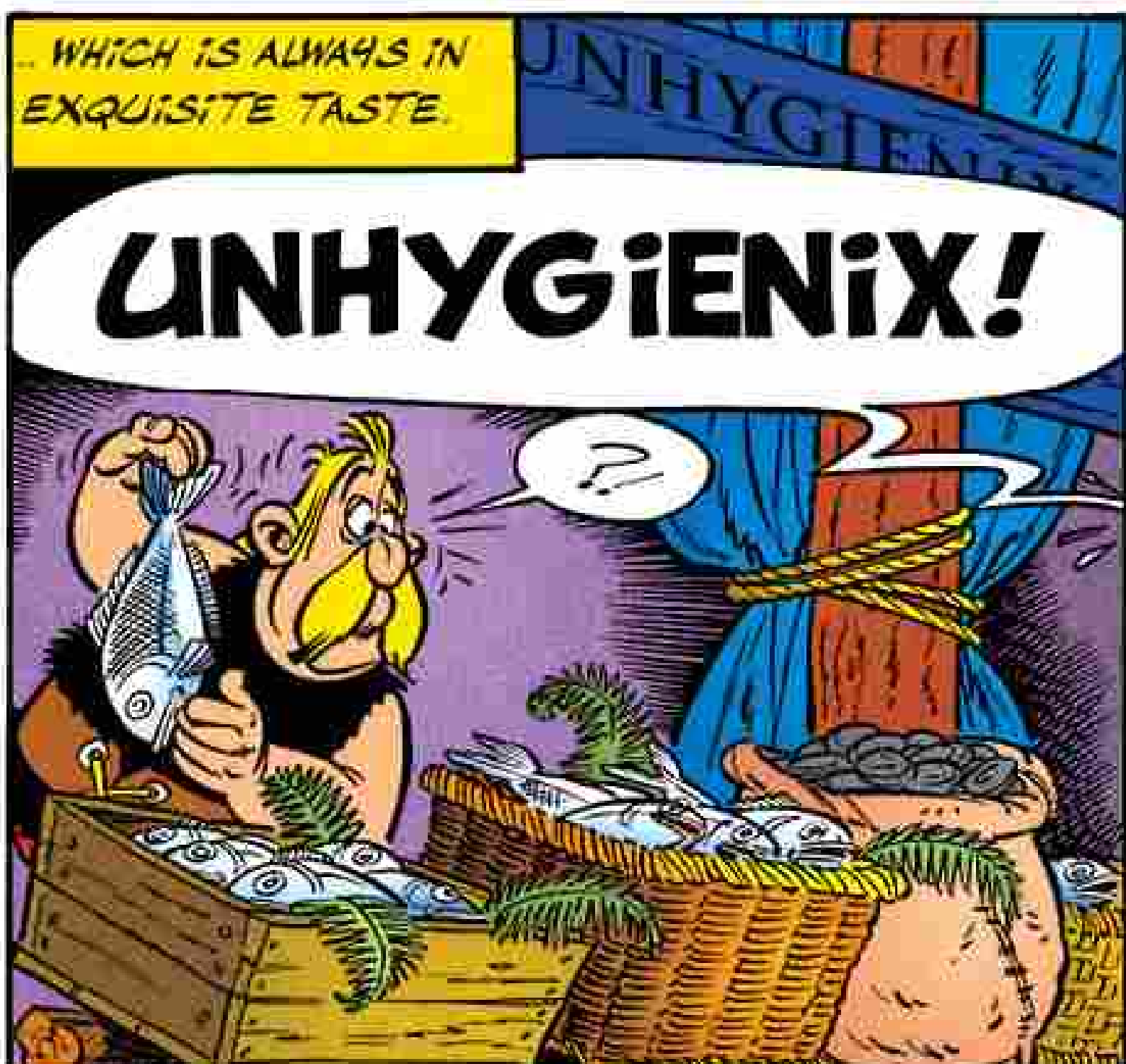
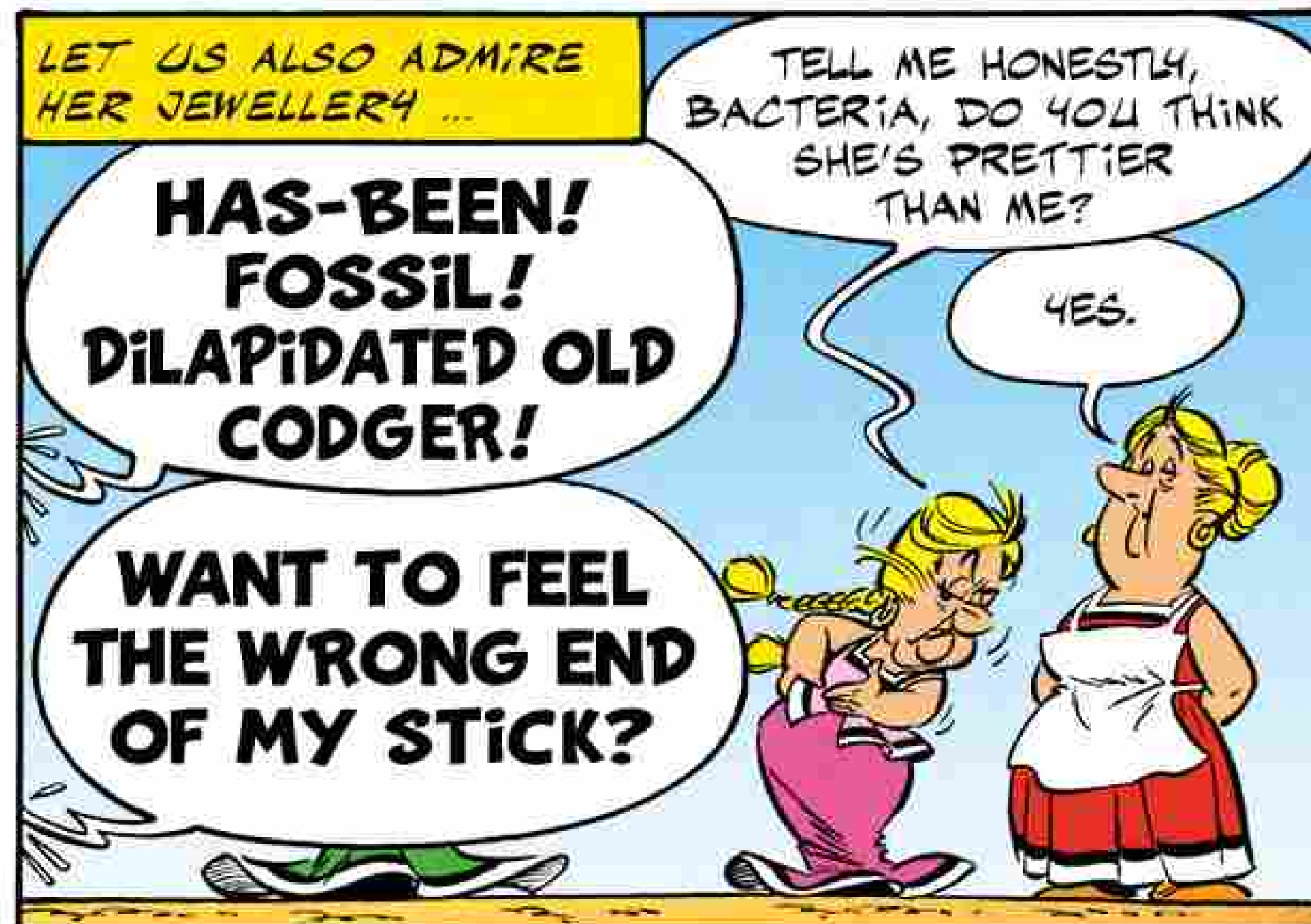
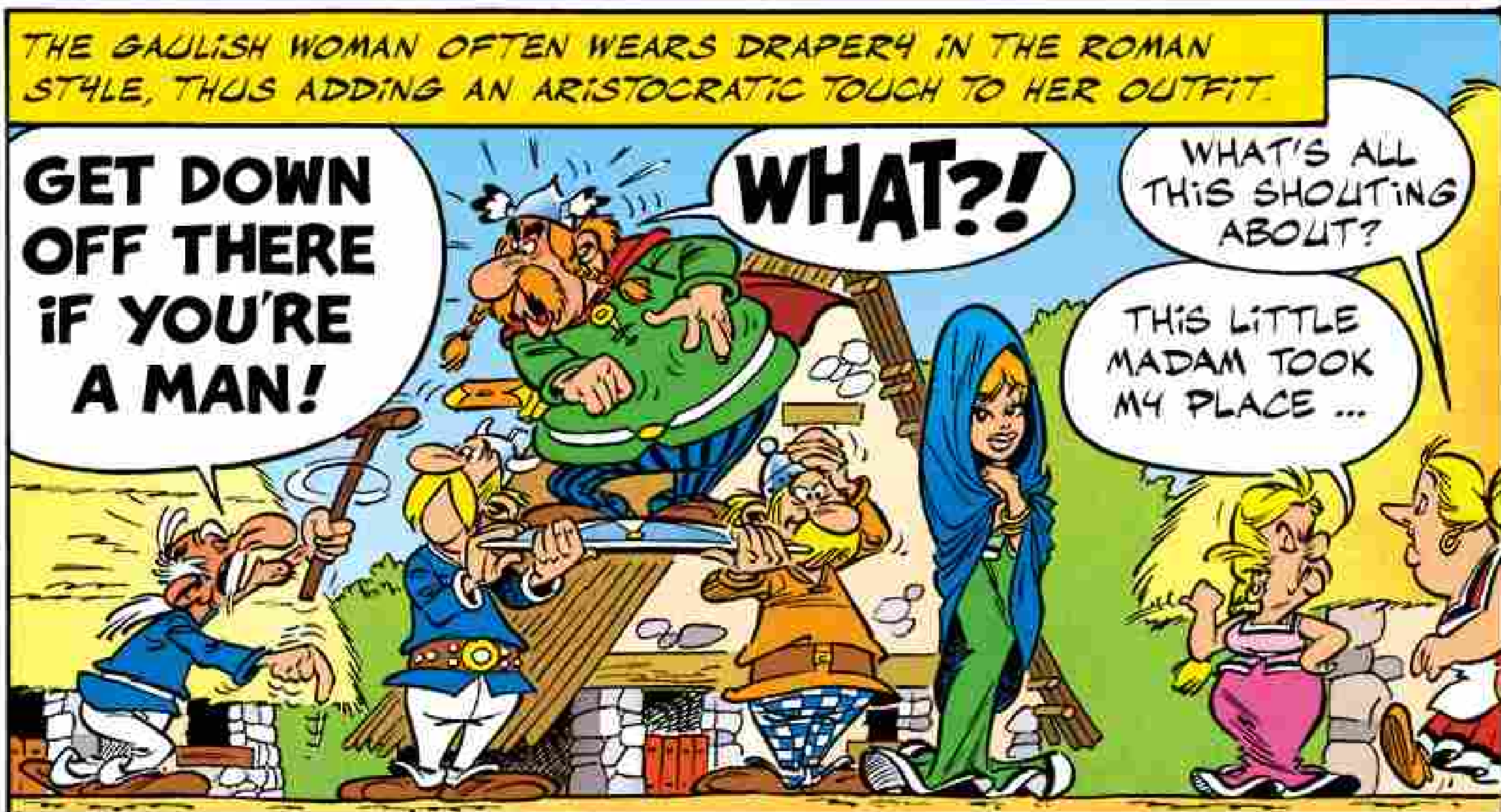
Although it is true that the village of indomitable Gauls is rather a male society, the authors progressively introduced heroines into the story as regular characters, for instance Impedimenta the chief's wife, Mrs Geriatrix (the star of this two-page story), Panacea and Cleopatra.

So it would be wrong to call the authors of the Asterix books anti-feminist! In fact women play a much more important part than in many other famous series! And if the humour sometimes gently mocks them, it certainly doesn't spare the men either. Look at the rather unflattering pictures of Chief Vitalstatistix, Unhygienix the fishmonger or Fulliautomatix the village blacksmith! Thank you!



IT HAS OFTEN BEEN CLAIMED THAT THE ANCIENT GAULS WERE BARBARIANS. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. VERGINGETORIX'S PROUD WARRIORS UNDERSTOOD CIVILIZED REFINEMENT, AND THEIR LOVELY LADY FRIENDS DIDN'T BOTHER WITH ALL THAT LOUD-MOUTHED "VENI, VIDI, VICI!" STUFF THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN THE QUESTION OF MINI, MIDI OR MAXI ...

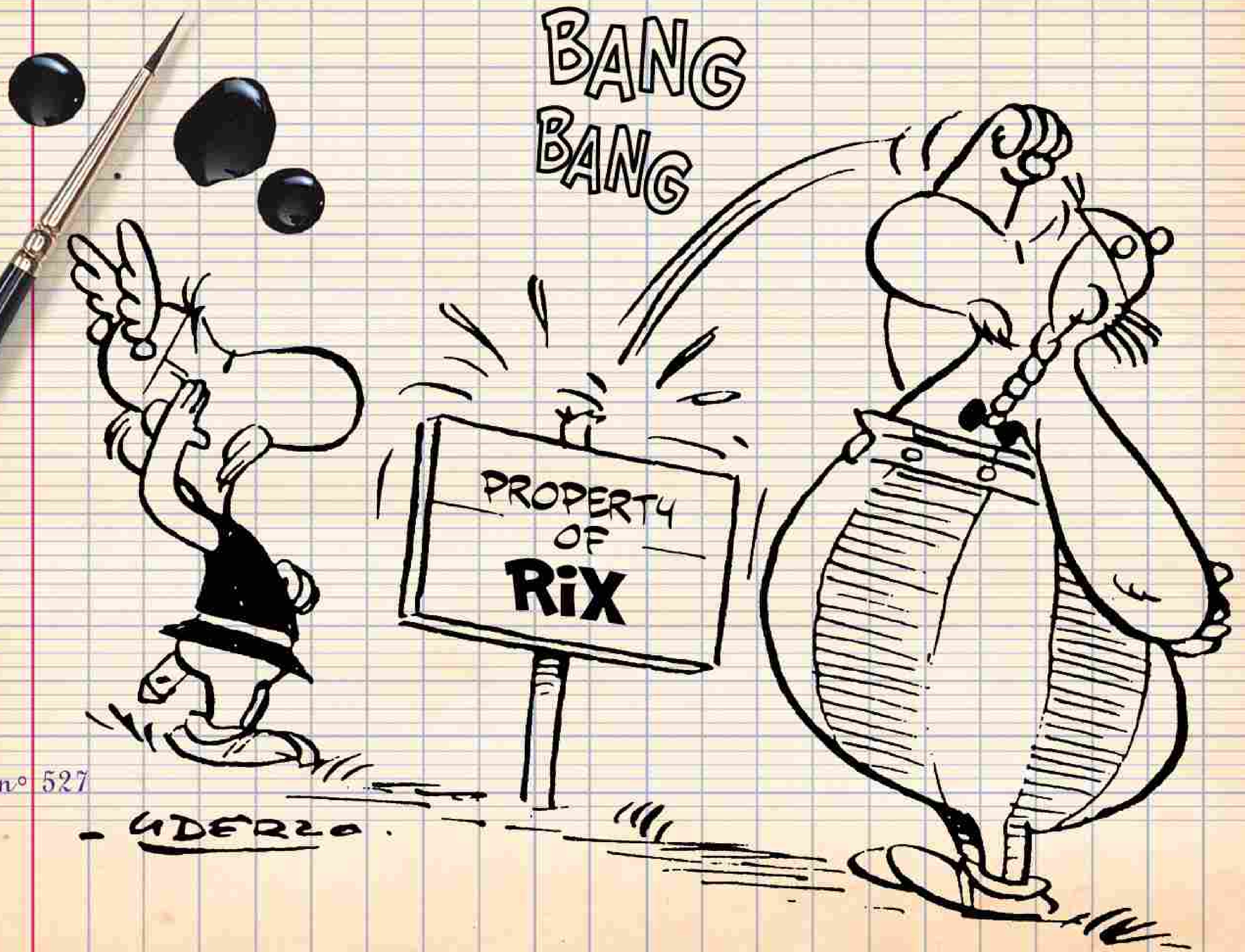




Asterix as you have
never seen him before...
11 December 1969

René Goscinny - Albert Uderzo

These three pages of anthology pieces, which have kept all their force and originality, are very much in the spirit of "Pilote" magazine in the 1960s. The texts make their points tellingly and are very funny, while the drawing — or rather drawings — show a breathtaking mastery of many different graphic styles. How can an artist change his own style to caricature other strip cartoon illustrators so cleverly? There is a touch of the famous American "Mad" magazine here. The author has fun showing us what his imagination has come up with — for by agreement with René Goscinny, Albert both wrote and drew these three amazing pages by himself. A treat to be (re)discovered.



"Pilote", n° 527

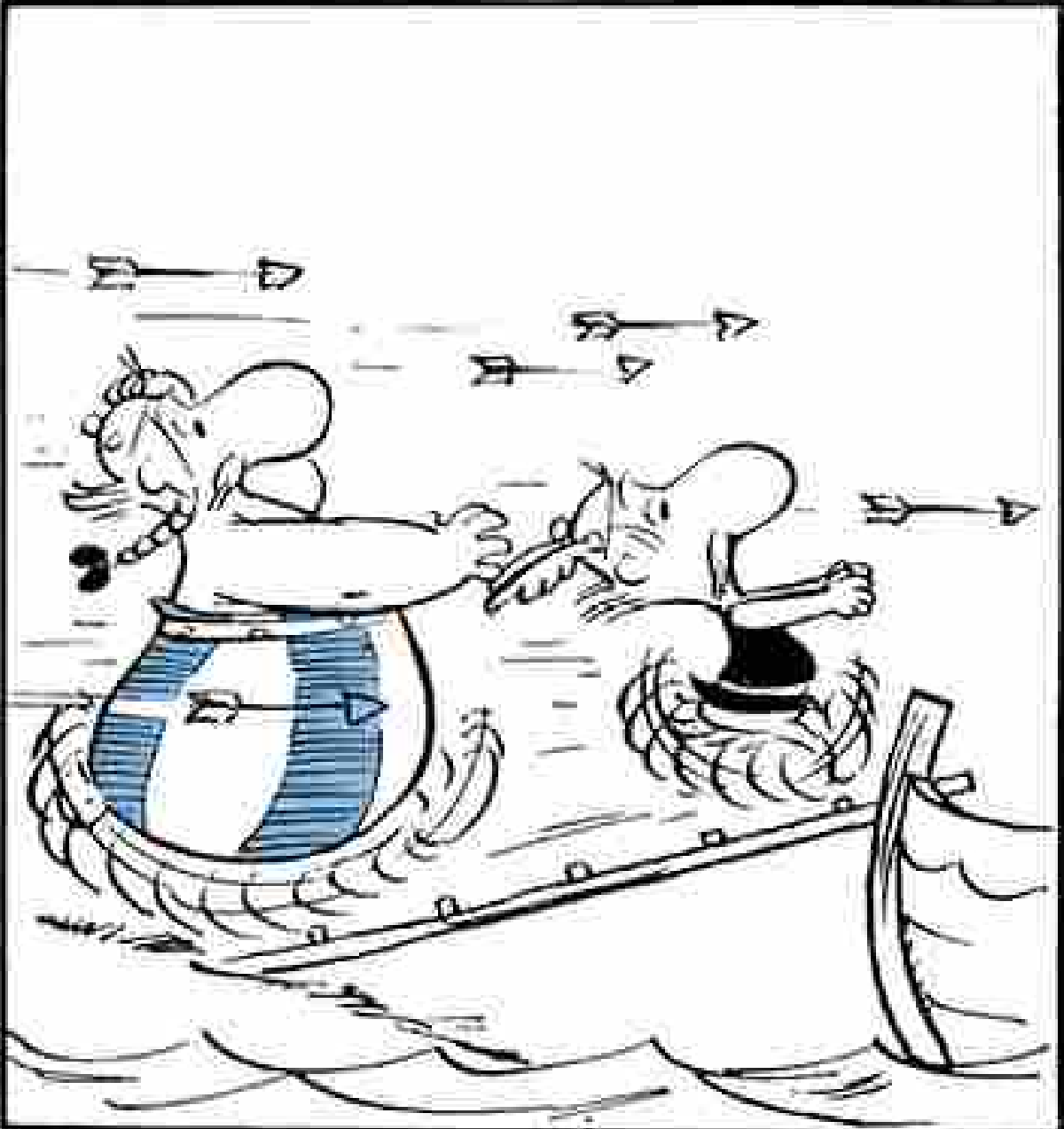
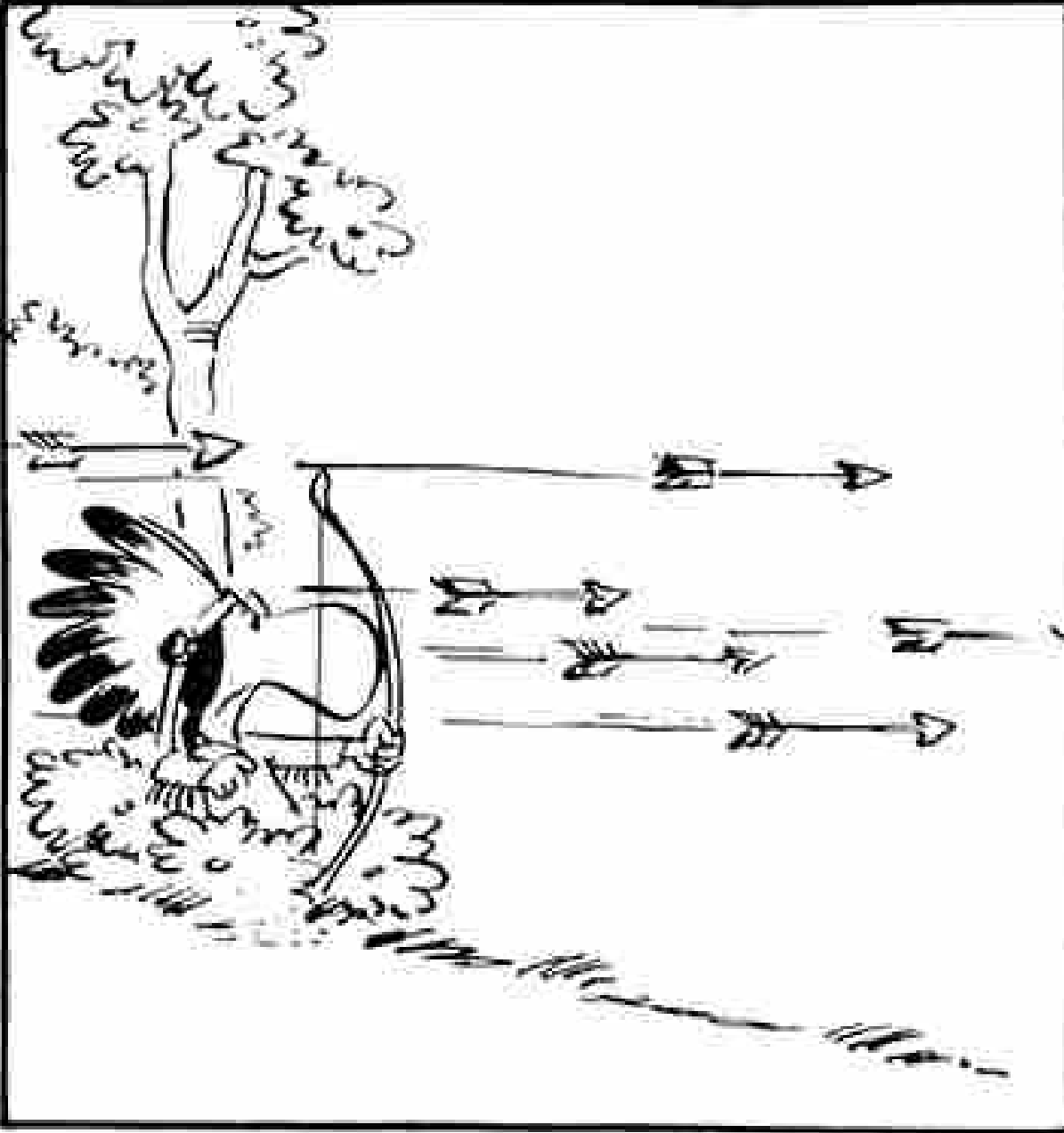
SINCE THE BIRTH OF ASTERIX, MANY OF OUR READERS AND CERTAIN SPECIALIST STRIP CARTOON MAGAZINES, NOT TO MENTION THE CRITICS, HAVE SUGGESTED IDEAS TO US. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR KIND CONTRIBUTIONS, AND WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO ADAPT ASTERIX IN LINE WITH SOME OF THEIR SUGGESTIONS.

SUGGESTION 1

"WHY DON'T YOU, LIKE, YOU KNOW, HAVE THE DRUID INVENTING MODERN GADGETS? THE CHARACTERS DON'T TALK, LIKE, NATURAL AND EVEN WORSE, THE DRAWING'S JUST FOR KIDS, LIKE MICKEY MOUSE STUFF. SIGNED, A PAL."

SUGGESTION 2

"'STORIES TOO LONG' - STOP -
'TOO MUCH DIALOGUE' - STOP -
'NOT ENOUGH SIMPLICITY IN DRAWING' - STOP -
'WHY NOT TAKE ASTERIX TO AMERICA?' - STOP -
SIGNED, PROFESSOR HEDDY, UNIVERSITY OF NANTES."



"THE LATEST ASTERIX BOOK WAS NOT TOO BAD, UNATTRACTIVE AND MUDDLED AS THE DRAWING WAS. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WERE DELIGHTED TO RE-READ THE WONDERFUL COLLECTION OF THE ADVENTURES OF THE HIGH-FLYING CRASH CORDON IN THE AMAZING WORLD OF DEEP SPACE."

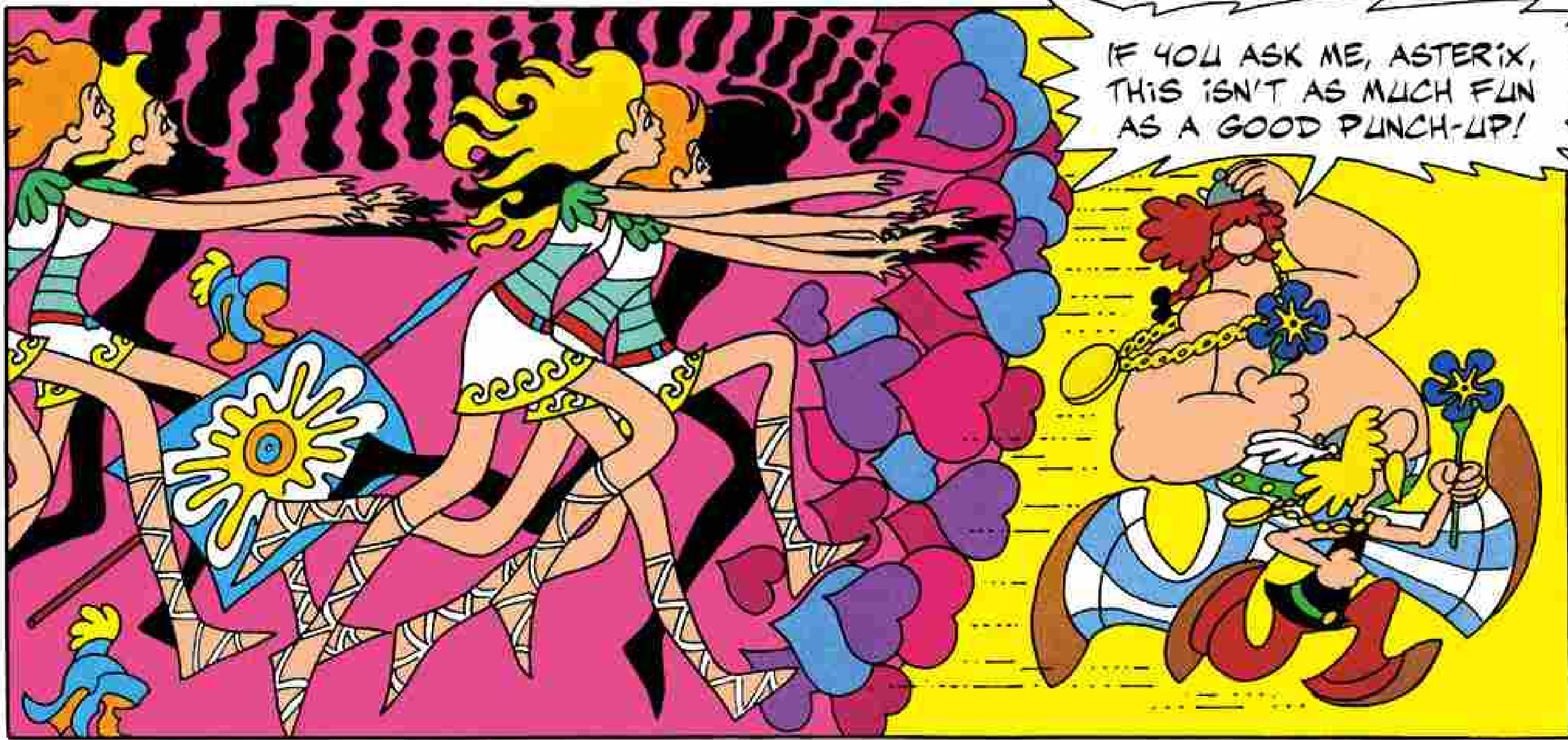
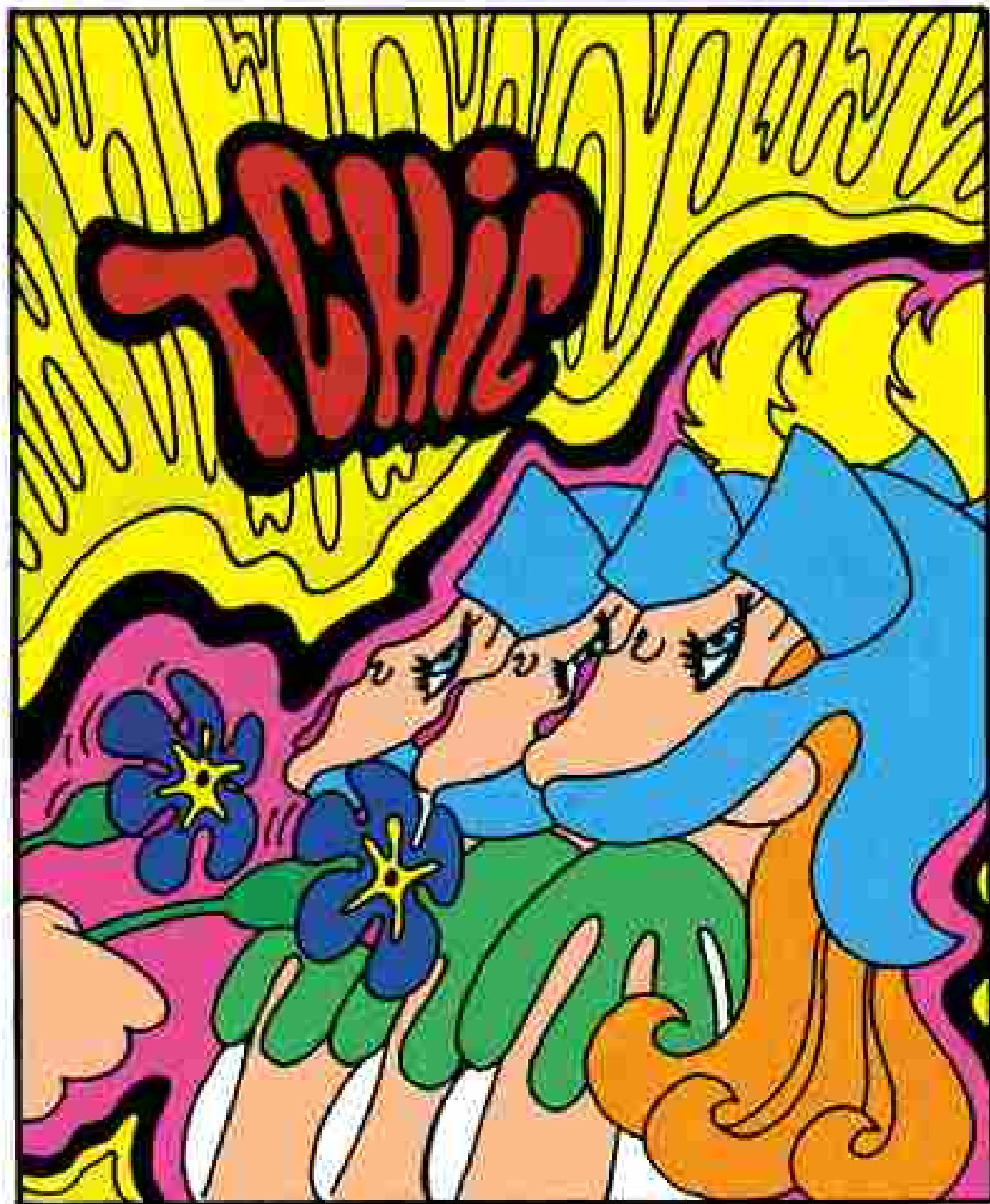
Jimm Astéryx

THANKS TO THE DRUID'S MAGIC AMPHORA, OUR HEROES ARRIVE ON MARS BY WAY OF JUPITER, JUNO AND MERCURY.

AND, BY TOUTATIS! MARS IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO FIND THE VERY ESSENCE OF LIFE, OBELYX!

SUGGESTION 4 "I AM A SYCOPHANT AIMING TO PROMOTE CINEDOLOGICALLY NECROMANTIC SYMBIOSIS. MY EGO REBELS AGAINST YOUR WORK AND URGES DEHORTATION. THE CRETINOIDAL MICROCEPHALY OF YOUR PHYLLACTERIO-LOGICAL TEXT, TOGETHER WITH THE MONSTROUS SPACIOSITY OF EMPIRICIST GRAPHICS SUGGESTING RETROSPECTIVE DELIRIUM, IS AN INSULT TO THE INTELLECT AND TO THE STUDY OF UNIVERSALS AS ENVISAGED AND CARRIED OUT BY THE MIND" HUBERT BLETHER, EDITOR, "THE LITERARY SYCOPHANT". (AUTHORS' NOTE: THIS SUGGESTION IS OBVIOUSLY FOR A WEIGHTIER AND MORE INTELLECTUAL TEXT.)

SUGGESTION 5 "I'D LIKE TO SEE ASTERIX A BIT MORE TRENDY, A PSYCHEDELIX ASTERIX, FOR INSTANCE! AND WHY DON'T WOMEN FEATURE MORE IN YOUR STORIES? YOU'RE NOT ANTI-FEMINISTS, ARE YOU? AVE, FRIENDS! SIGNED: A FAN!"



AND HERE IS THE LAST SUGGESTION, THE ONE WHICH WE, AS THE AUTHORS, WOULD LIKE TO PUT TO YOU, OUR READERS. IT'S A QUESTION OF AESTHETICS, WHICH JUST SUDDENLY CAME TO US. A DARING IDEA, WE ADMIT, BUT ALL THE SAME WE KNOW OUR CHARACTERS WELL, I MEAN WE MADE THEM UP, DIDN'T WE? SO WE HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE IDEAS TOO, OH YES WE DO! OH, REALLY, WE DON'T BELIEVE IT!?! SHUT UP! WE'RE FREE AGENTS, AREN'T WE? VERY WELL, IF THAT'S HOW YOU LOT FEEL, IN FUTURE ASTERIX AND OBELIX WILL WEAR PLUS-FOURS...

**HONESTLY!
I MEAN, I ASK
YOU! THESE
AUTHORS
ARE
CRAZY!**



The Lutetia Olympics

25 October 1986

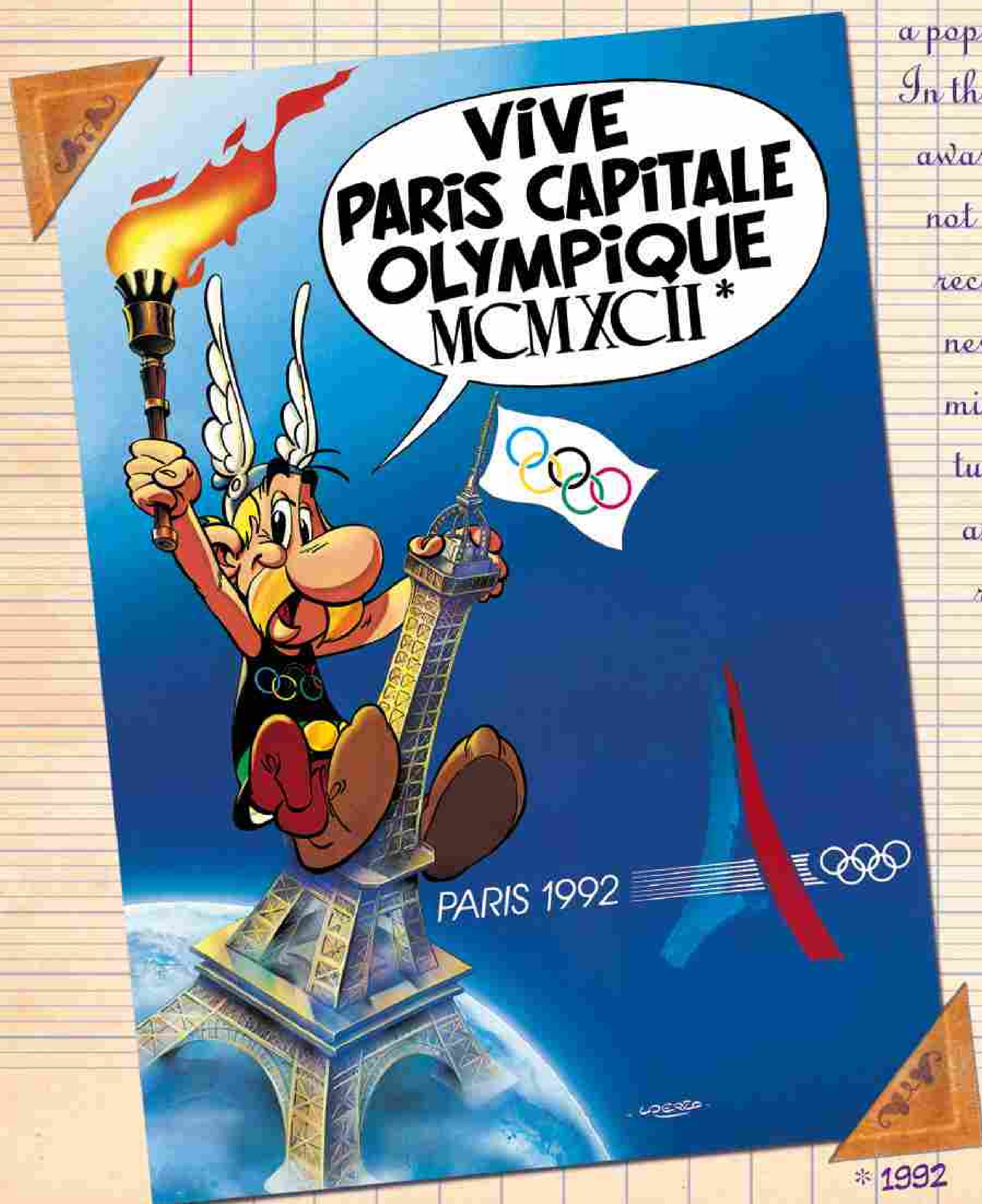
Written and illustrated by Albert Uderzo

In the mid-1980s the mayor of Paris turned to Asterix for help in its Olympic bid. Jacques Chirac and his municipal team wanted Paris (the former city of Lutetia) to stage the AD 1992 Games.

Albert Uderzo was asked to create a poster and a small four-page strip cartoon story to win support from the Parisii tribe of Lutetia. He liked the idea, and designed a poster which went up all over the capital in 1986. The story was published in "Jours de France",

a popular magazine of the last century.

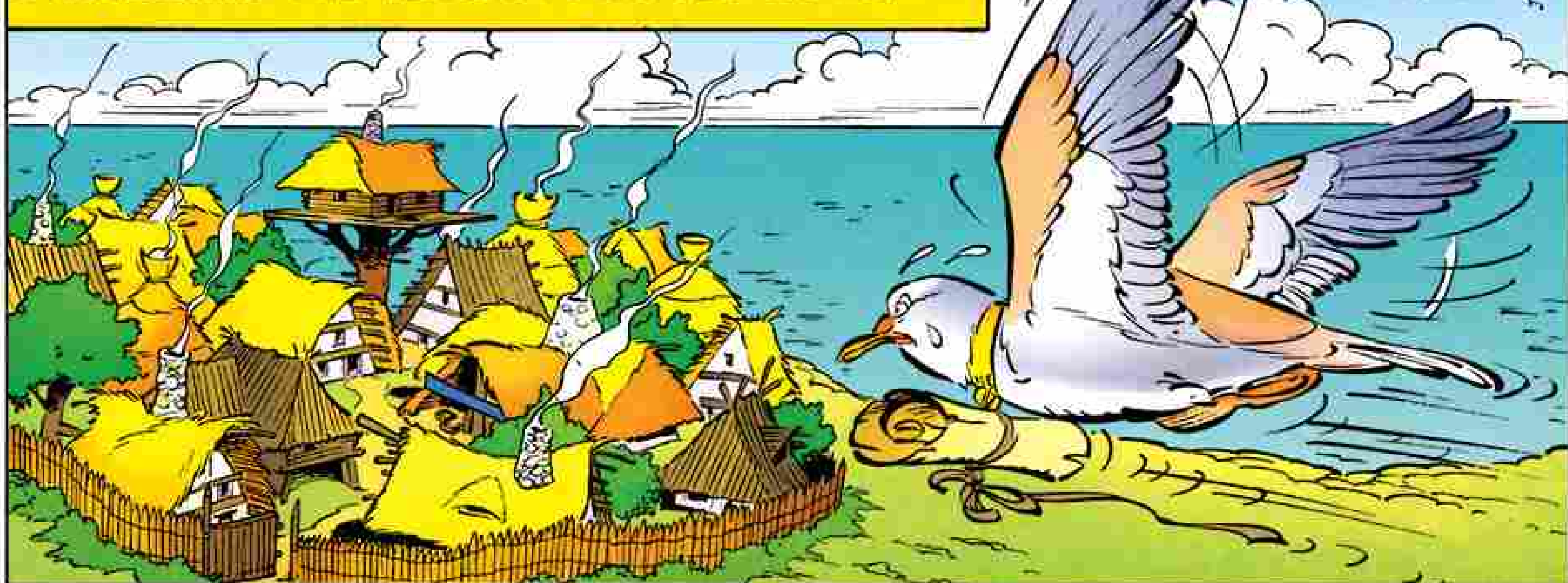
In the end the Olympic Committee did not award the Games to Paris, but obviously not everyone lost out, since just for the record, the original of the poster was never returned to the artist! But never mind: here you can see the Eiffel Tower turned into a huge, magnificent dovecote, and a really nasty villain is added to the rogues' gallery of the Asterix stories.



* 1992

"Jours de France", n° 1660

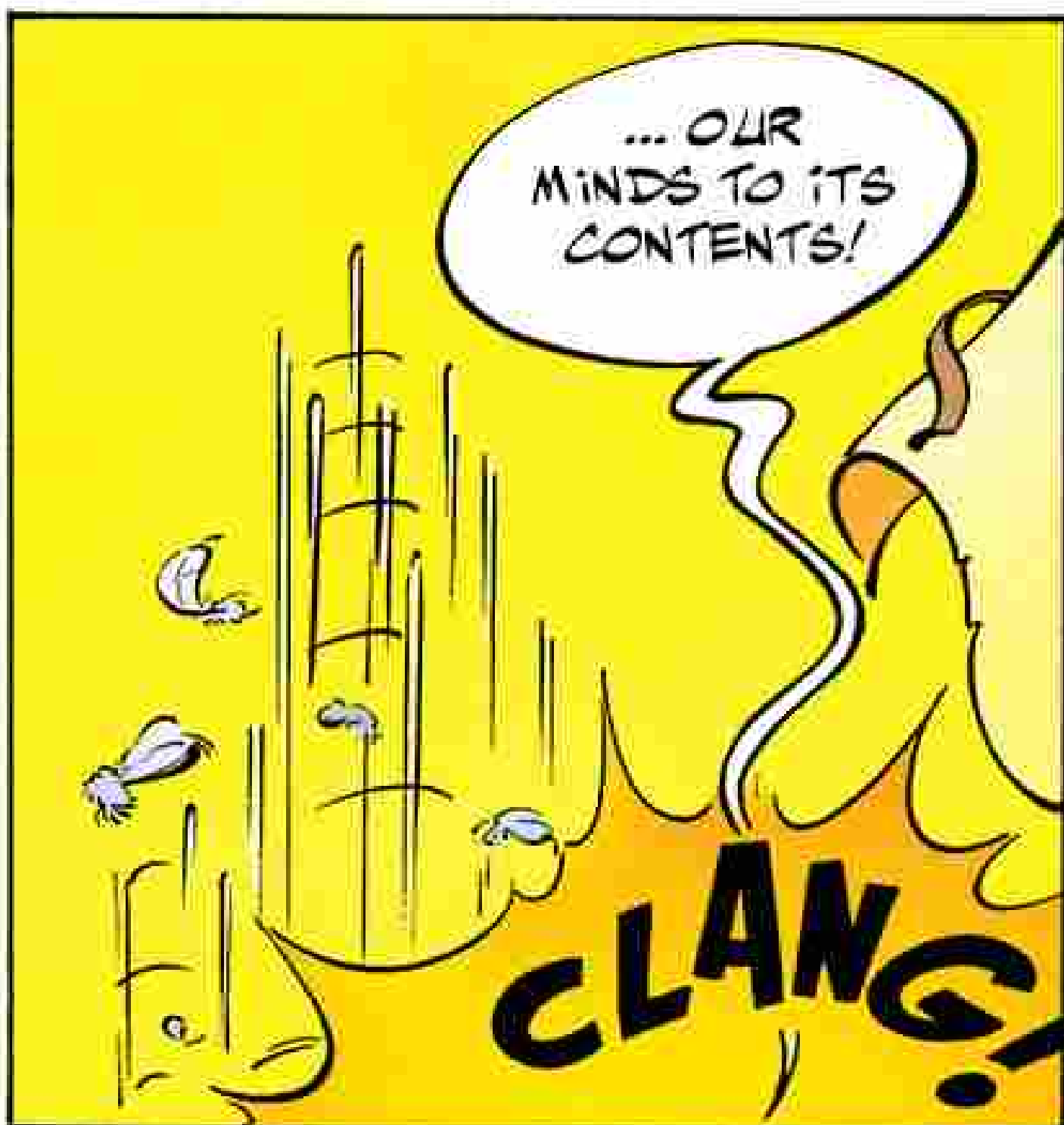
PEACE TEMPORARILY REIGNS BETWEEN THE GAULS OF ASTERIX'S LITTLE VILLAGE AND THE ROMANS GARRISONING THE NEARBY FORTIFIED CAMPS.



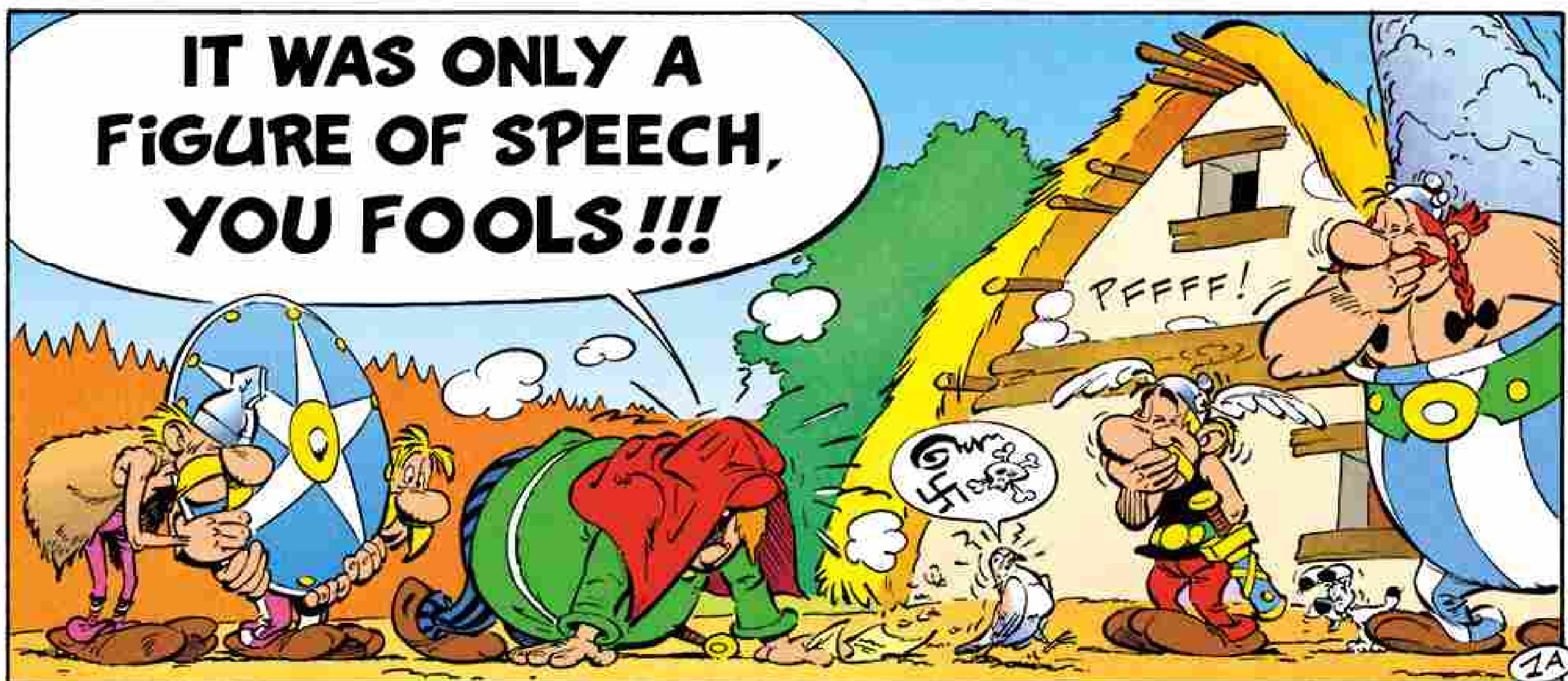
A MESSAGE BY EXPRESS CARRIER! LET US BEND ...



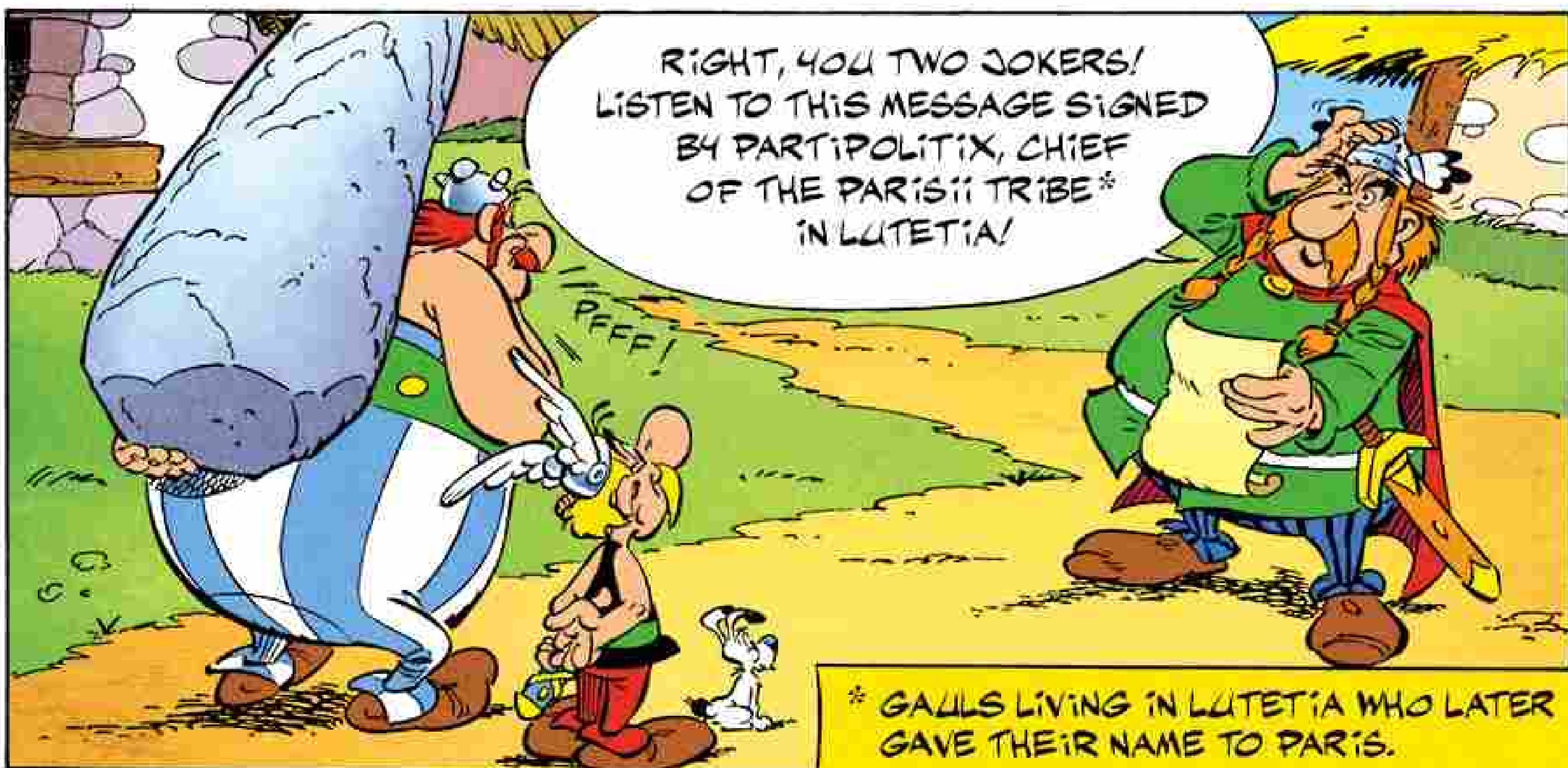
... OUR MINDS TO ITS CONTENTS!



IT WAS ONLY A FIGURE OF SPEECH, YOU FOOLS!!!



RIGHT, YOU TWO JOKERS! LISTEN TO THIS MESSAGE SIGNED BY PARTIPOLITIX, CHIEF OF THE PARISII TRIBE* IN LUTETIA!



* GAULS LIVING IN LUTETIA WHO LATER GAVE THEIR NAME TO PARIS.

"EXACTLY 100 YEARS AGO A GAULISH ATHLETE CALLED PIERRE DECOUBERTIX WON AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN GREECE. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME A NON-GREEK ATHLETE HAD EVER BEEN CROWNED WITH THE LAUREL WREATH OF VICTORY. TO COMMEMORATE THIS EVENT, THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO HOLD ITS NEXT GAMES OUTSIDE GREECE!"



"SEVERAL GREAT CITIES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD HAVE PUT IN BIDS TO HOST THE GAMES. IT WOULD BE ONLY RIGHT FOR THEM TO BE HELD IN LUTETIA, THE GAULISH CAPITAL. WE MUST THEREFORE PERSUADE THE DELEGATES OF THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE WHO ARE COMING TO VISIT US TO AWARD THE CITY THAT HONOUR!"



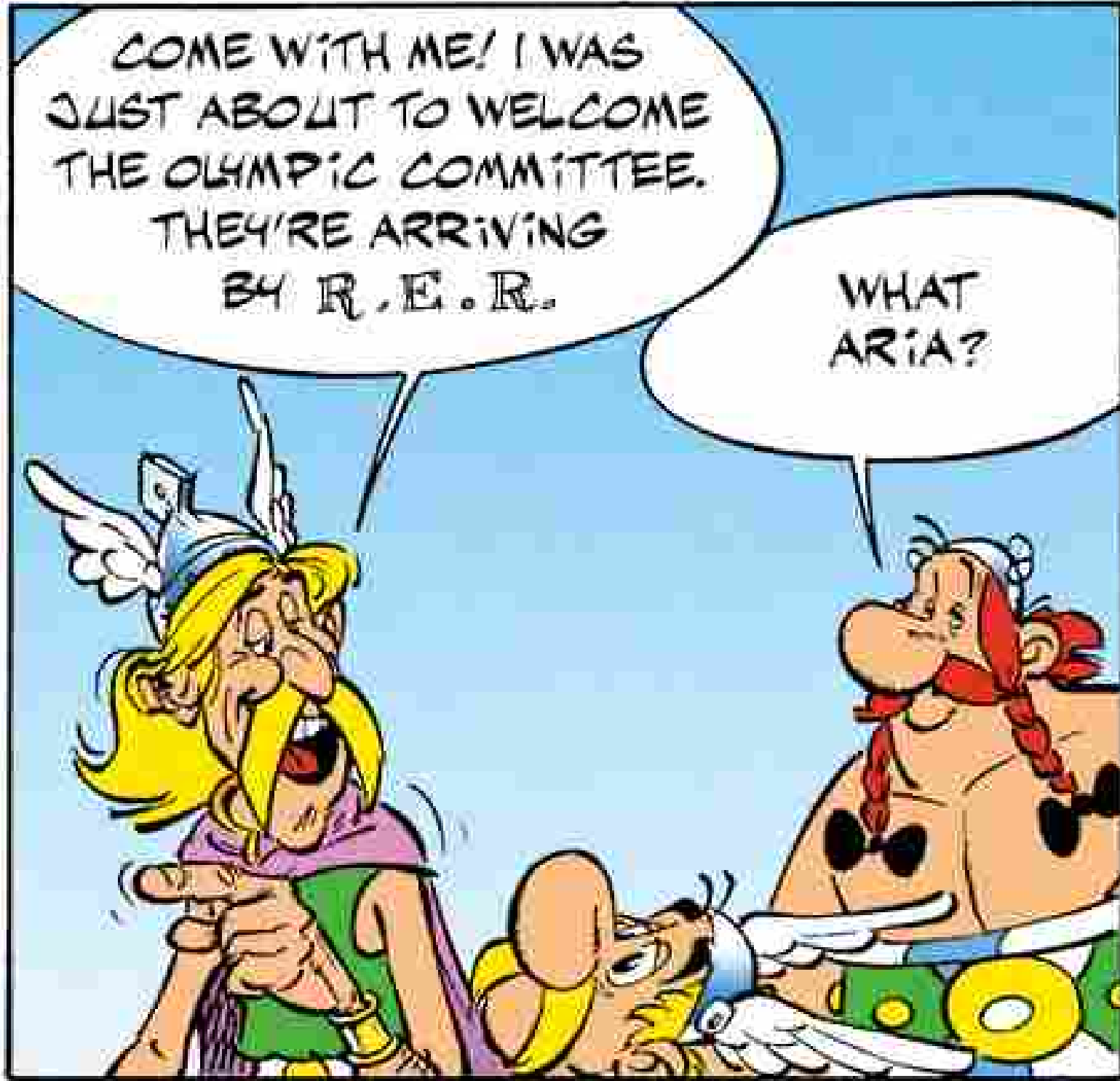
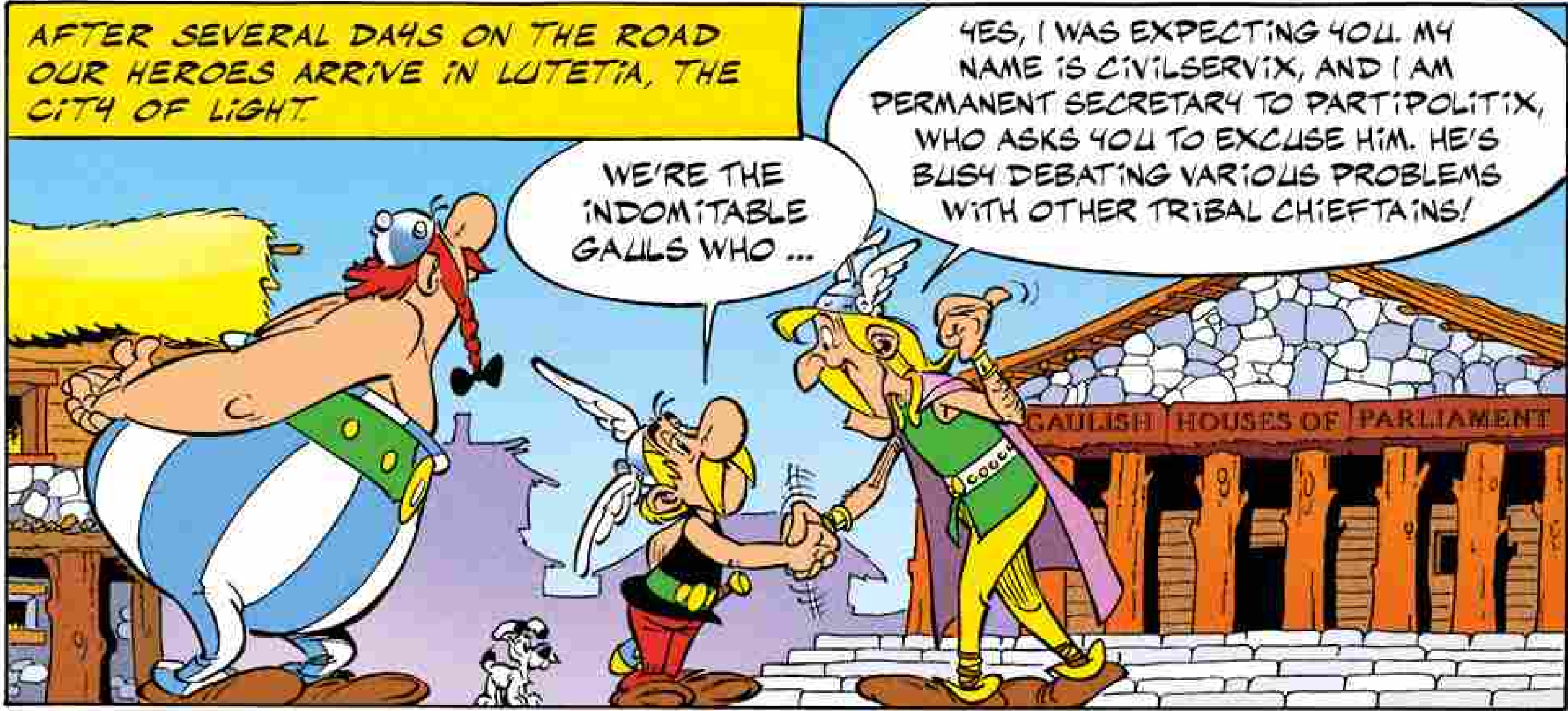
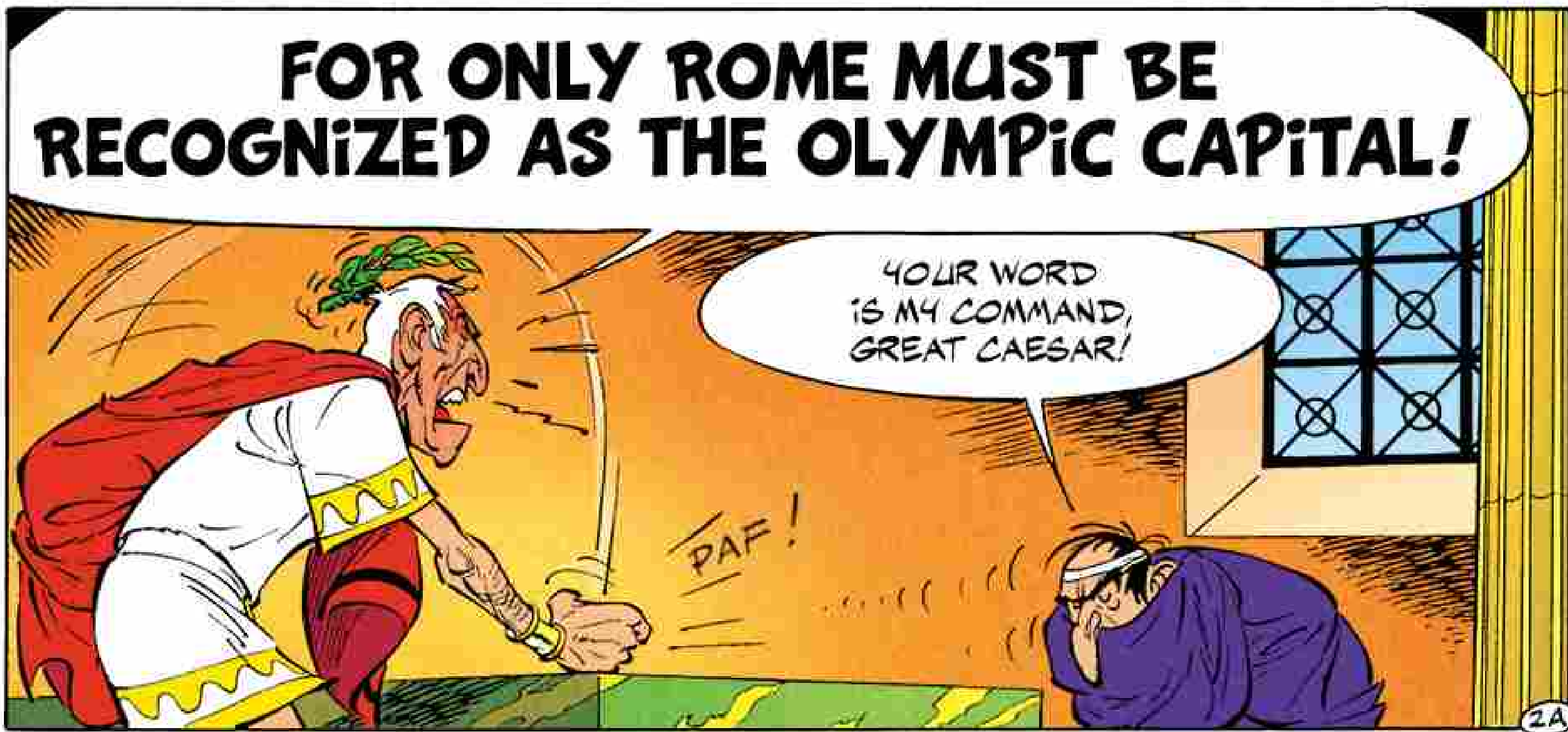
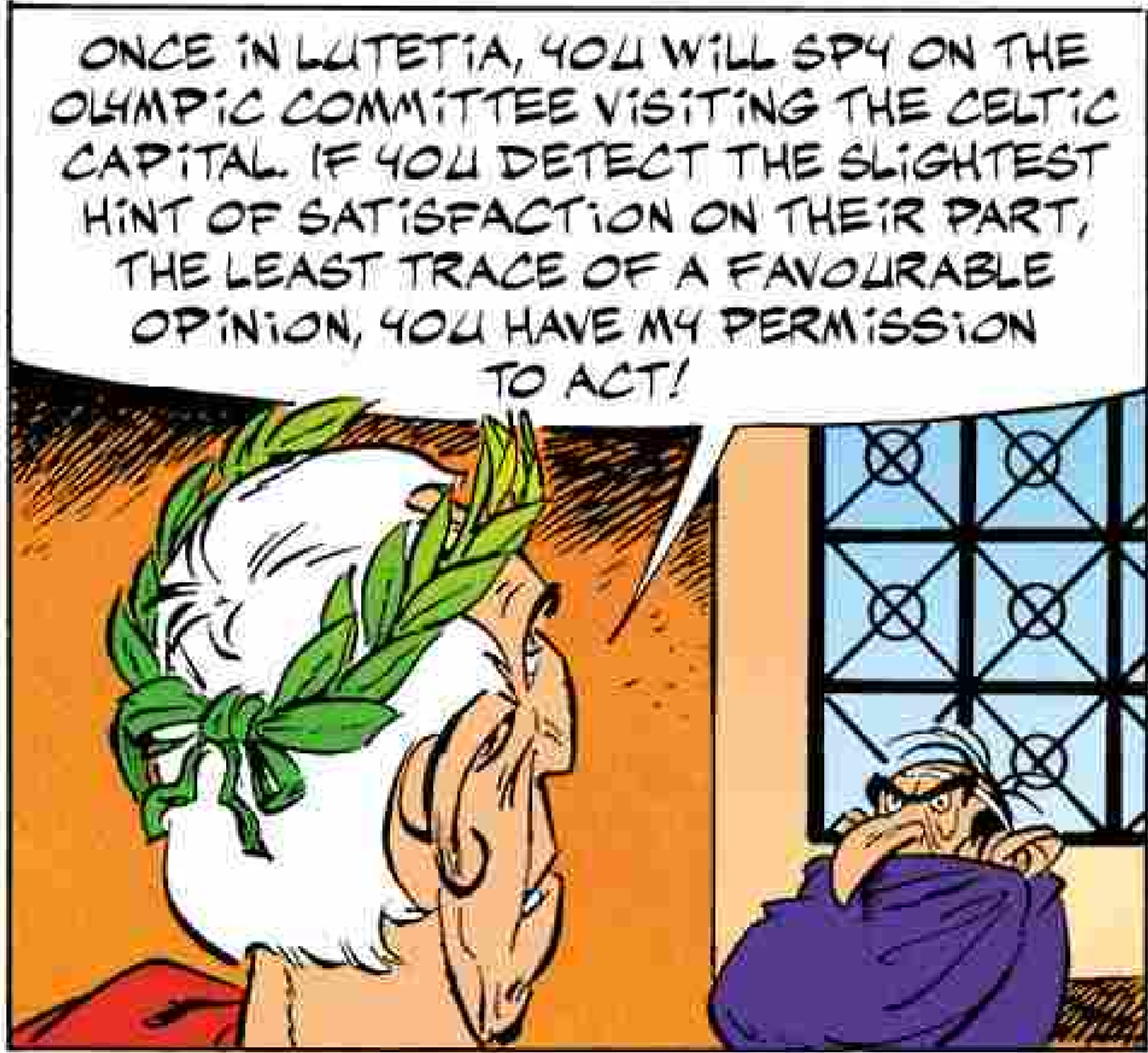
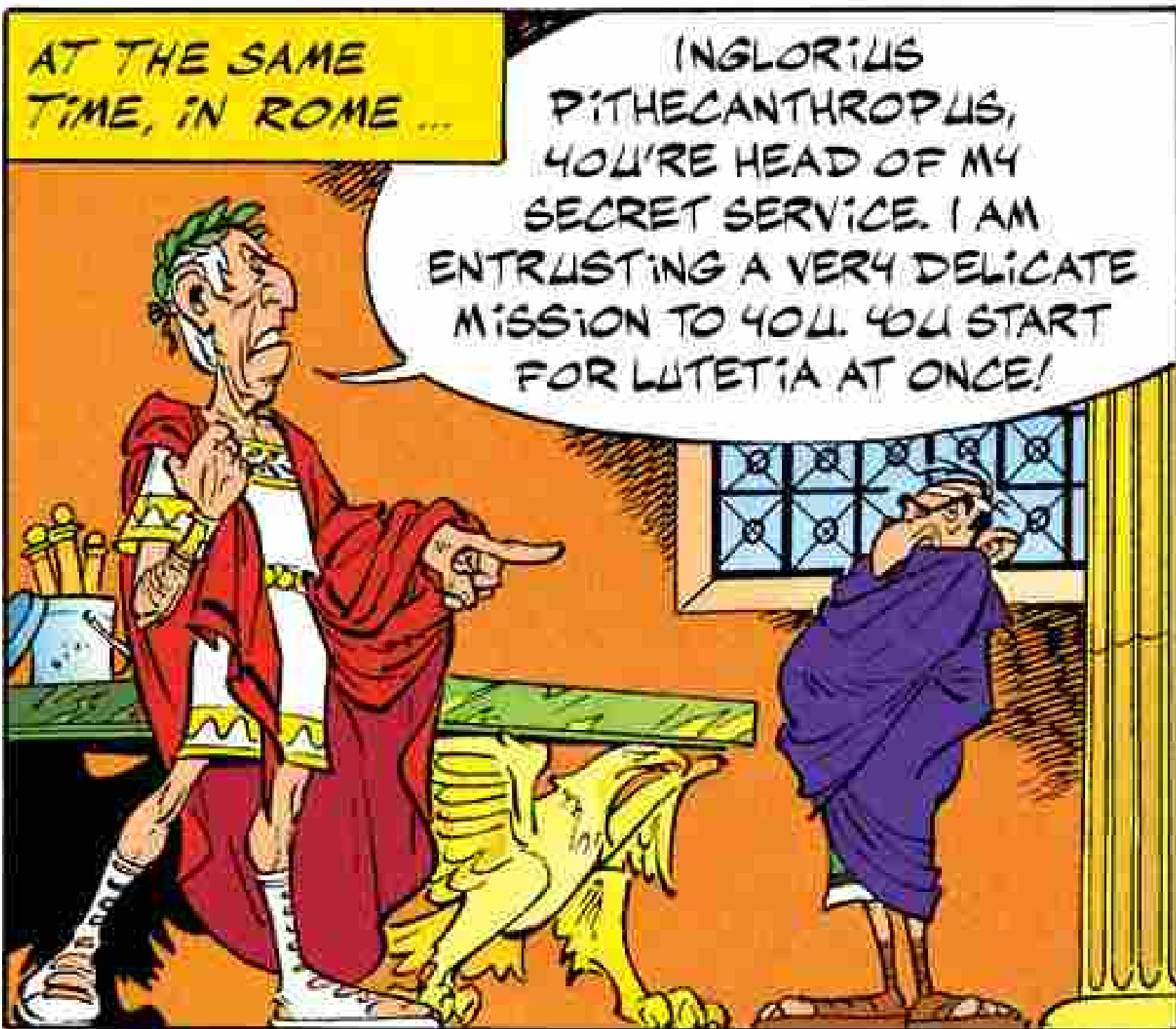
"ROME HAS ALSO MADE A BID FOR THE GAMES. JULIUS CAESAR IS SURE TO CAUSE TROUBLE TO ENSURE THAT ROME GETS CHOSEN. SO I AM ASKING THE VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS TO HELP US. PLEASE SEND YOUR MOST COURAGEOUS WARRIORS! THE HONOUR OF GAUL IS AT STAKE!"

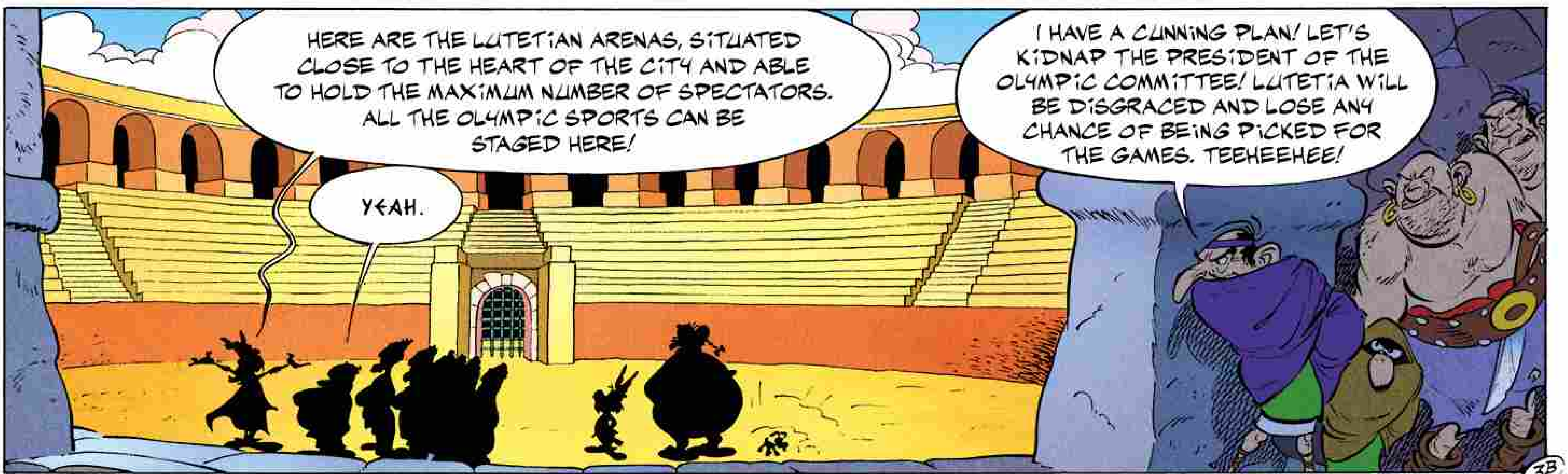
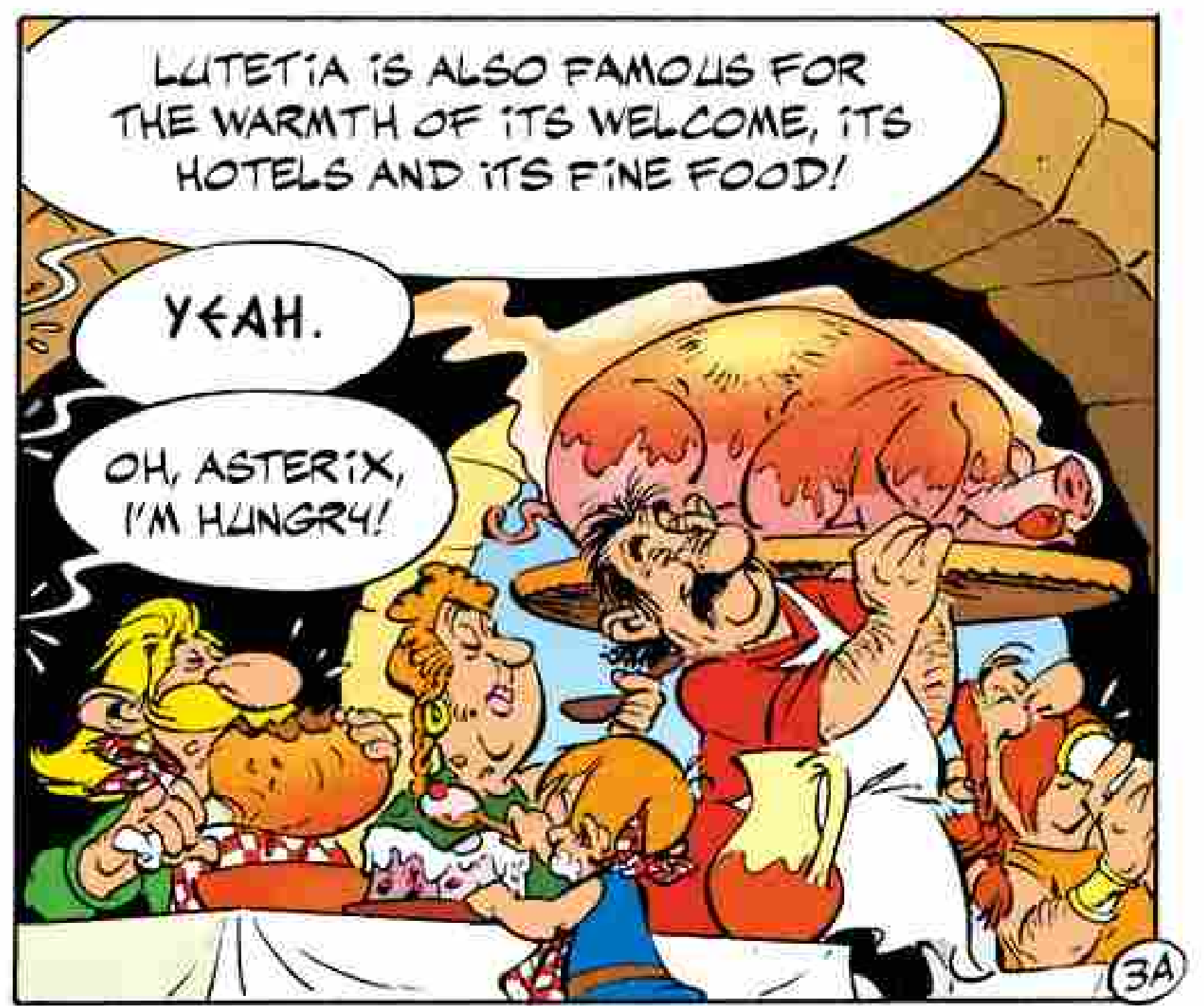
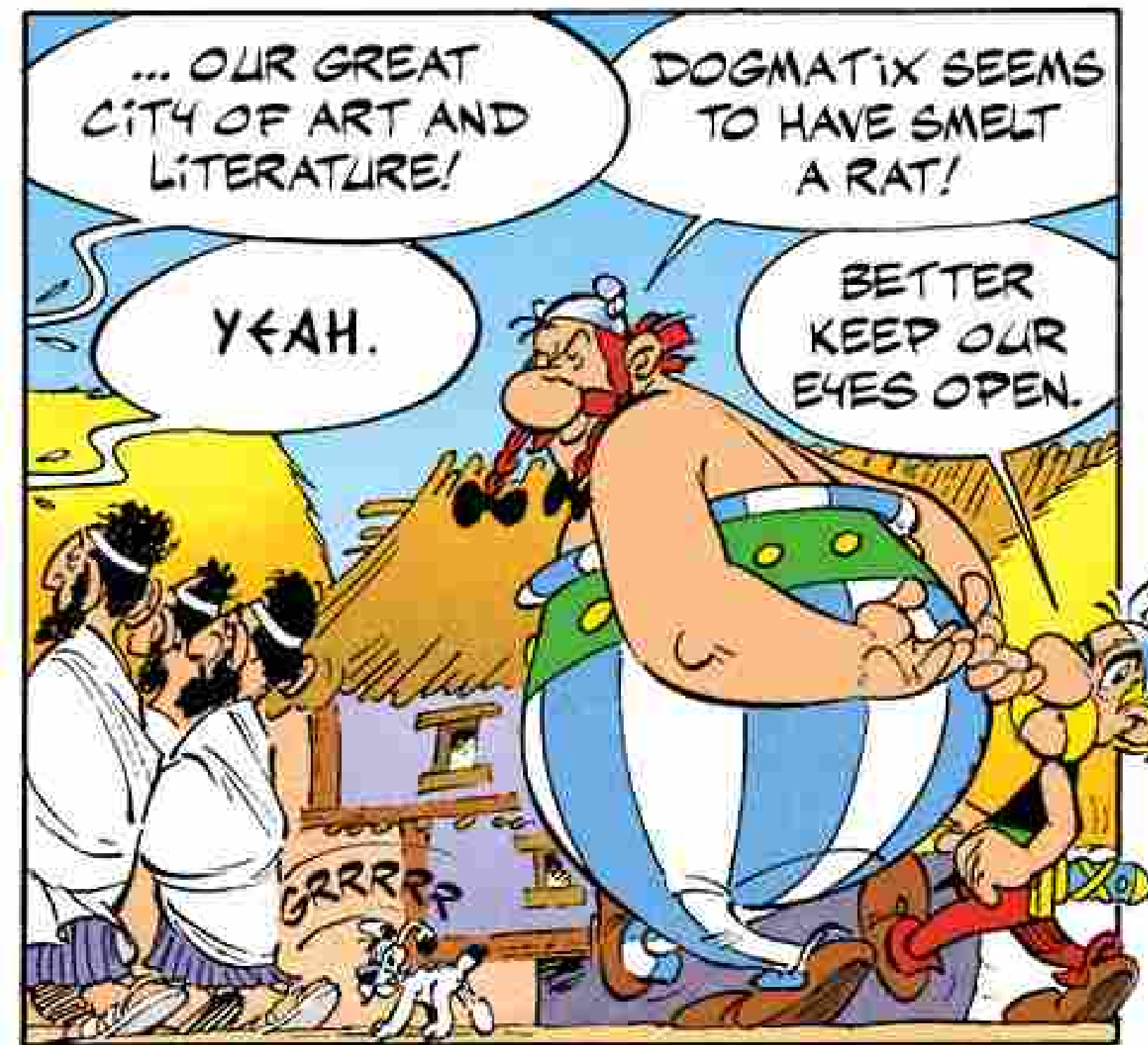


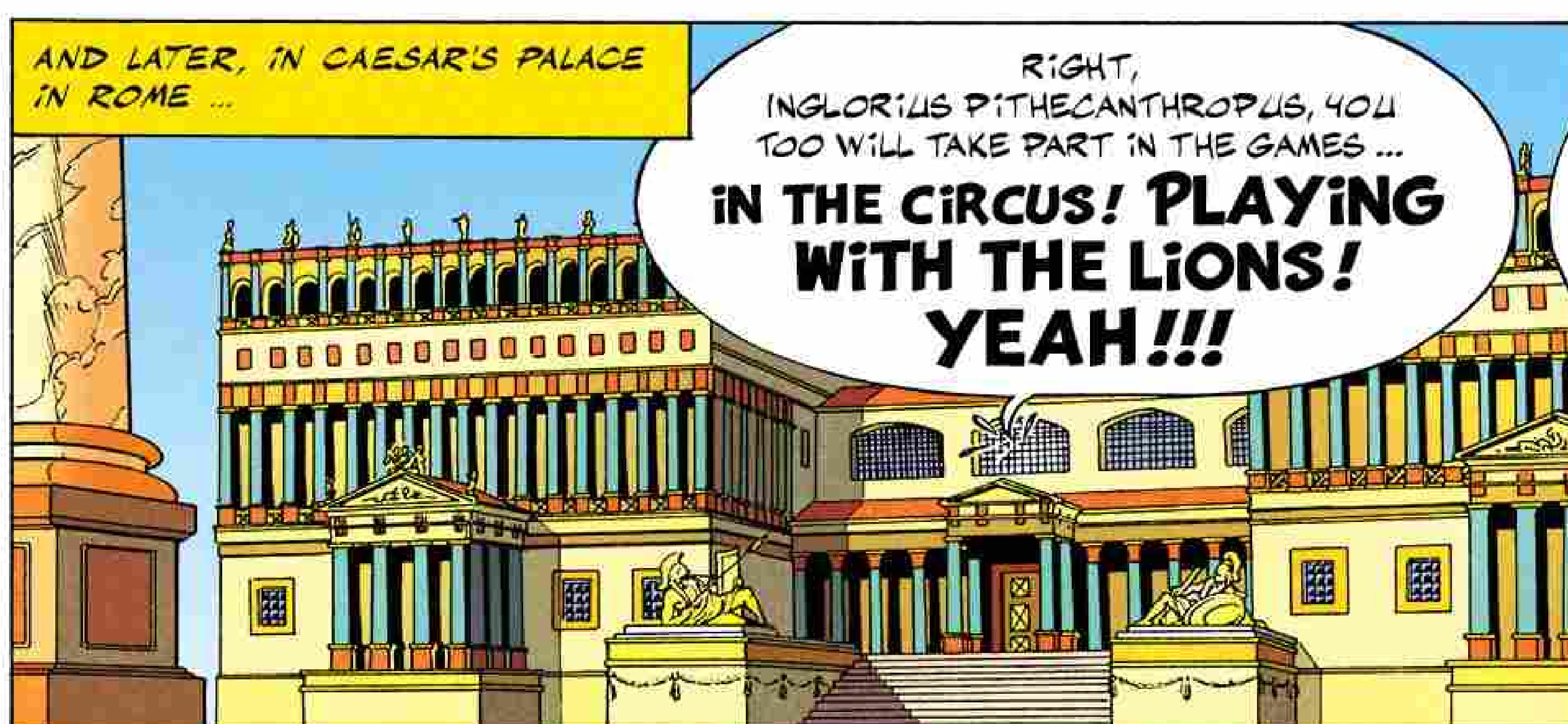
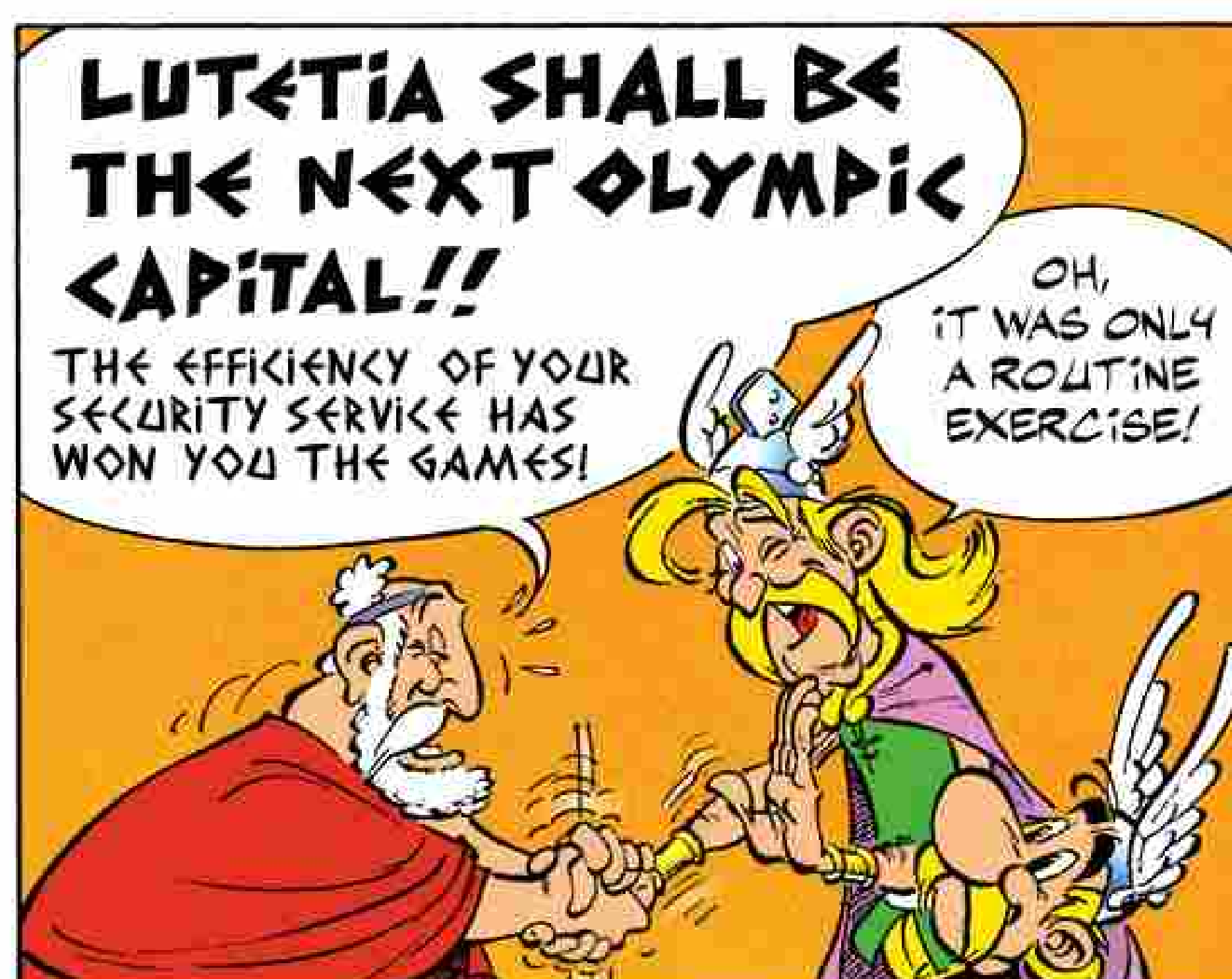
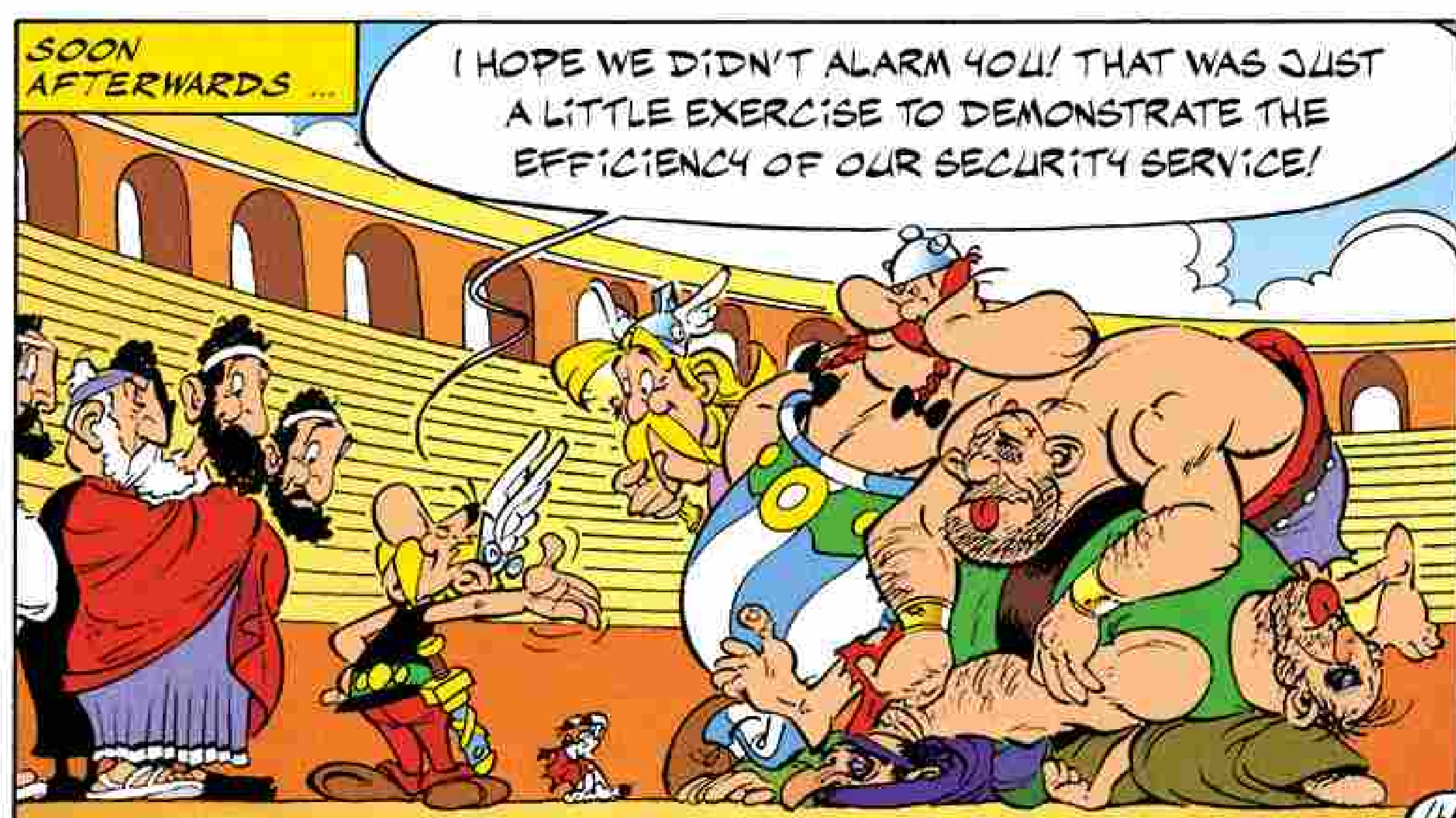
WE ARE YOUR MOST COURAGEOUS WARRIORS, O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX!

TRUE, ASTERIX, BUT TELL YOUR COURAGEOUS FRIEND TO STOP LAUGHING IN THAT SILLY WAY! THE HONOUR OF THE VILLAGE IS AT STAKE!







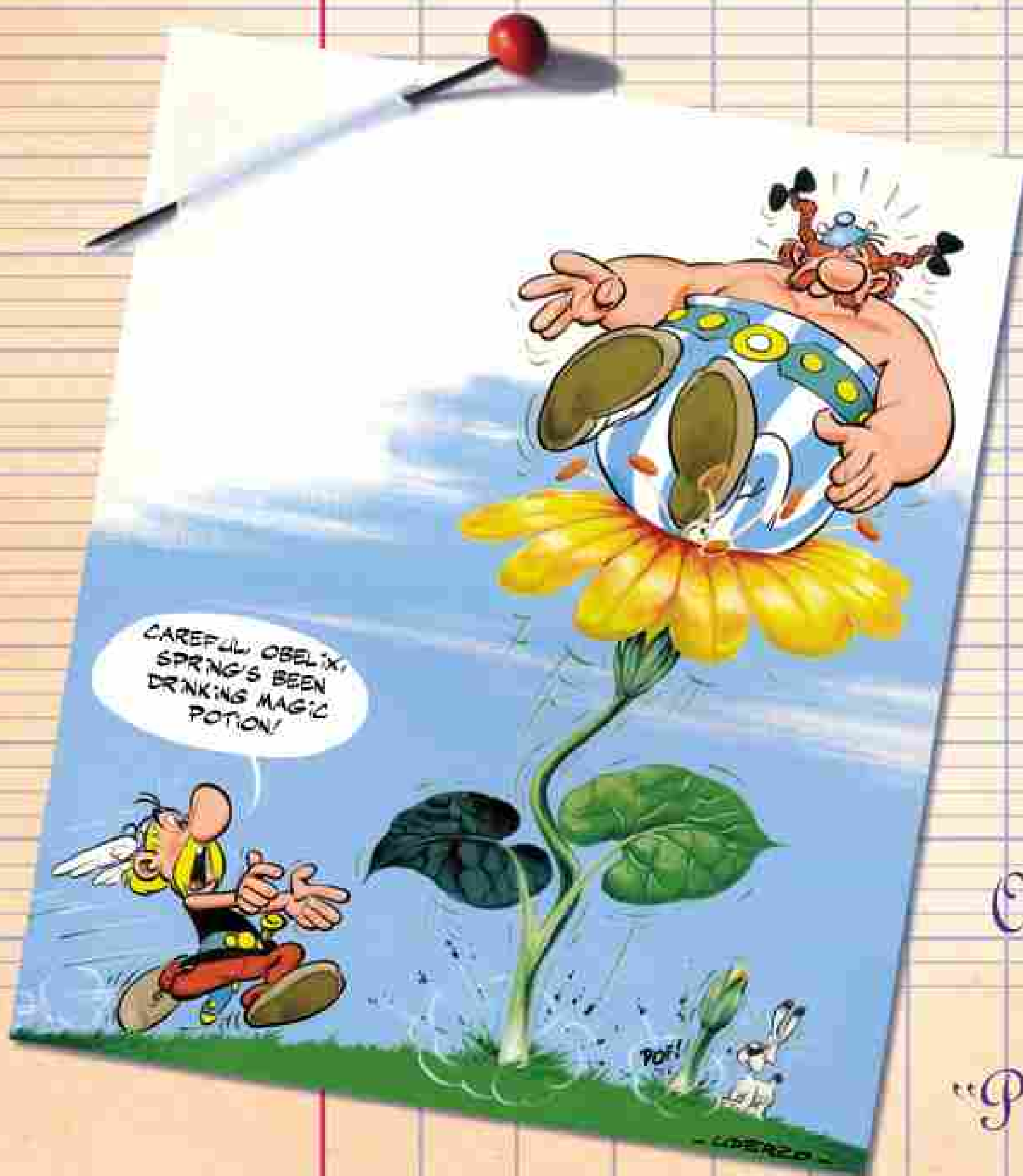


Springtime in Gaul

17 March 1966

René Goscinny - Albert Uderzo

René Goscinny, overworked at the time, asked Albert if he had any ideas for a story about spring. For the second time Albert wrote a little story of his own and showed it to his colleague before he drew the pictures.

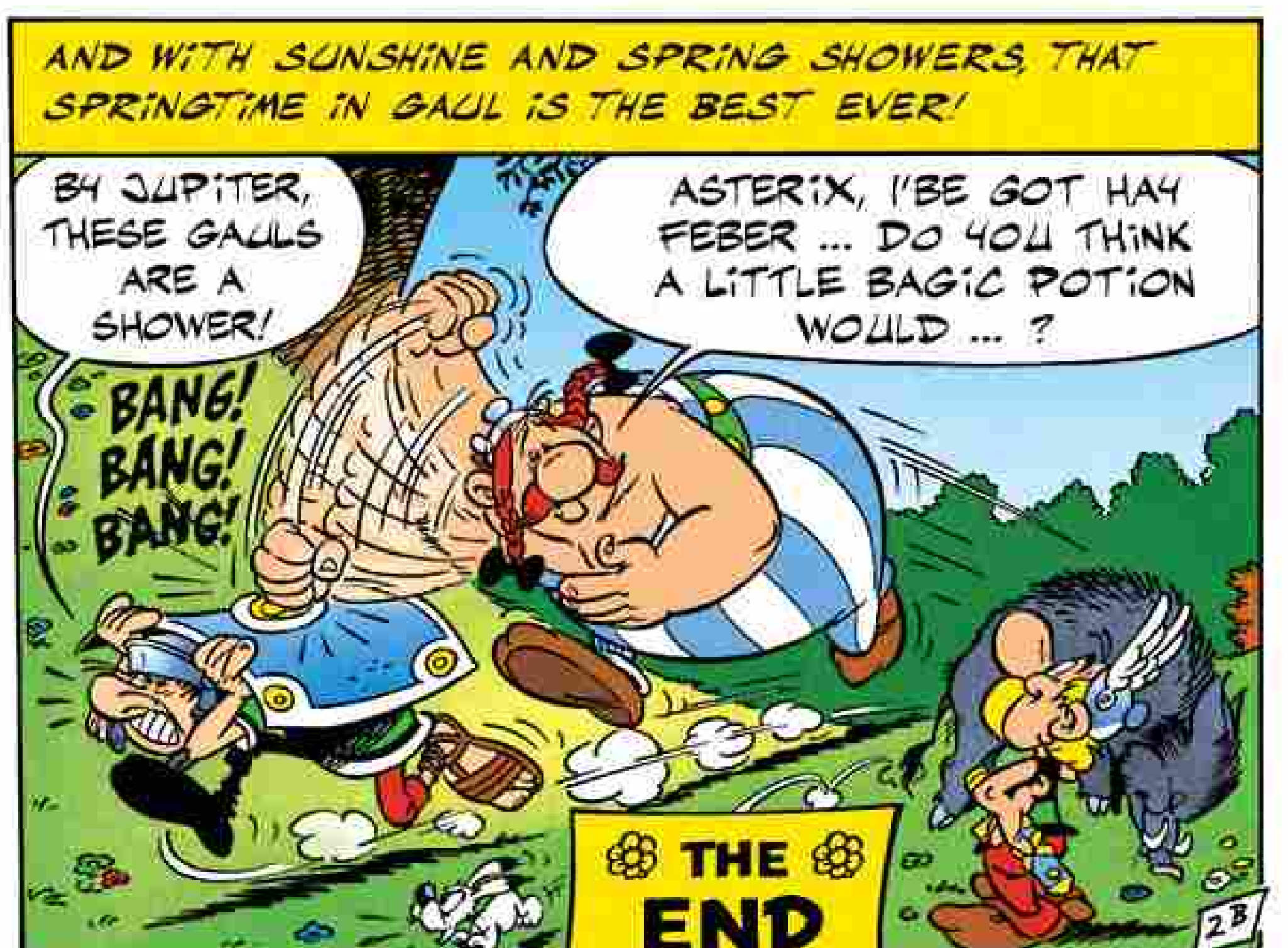
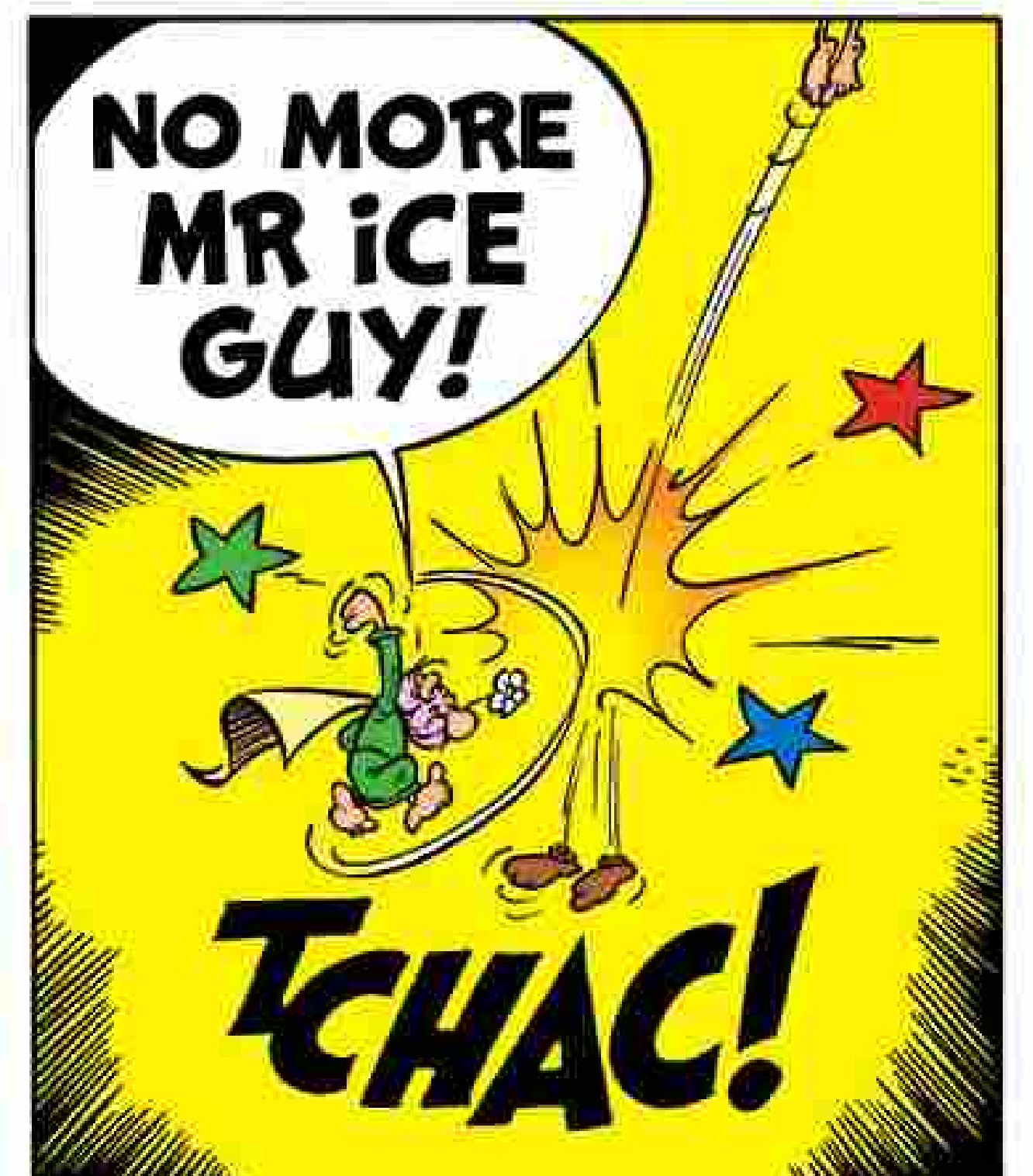
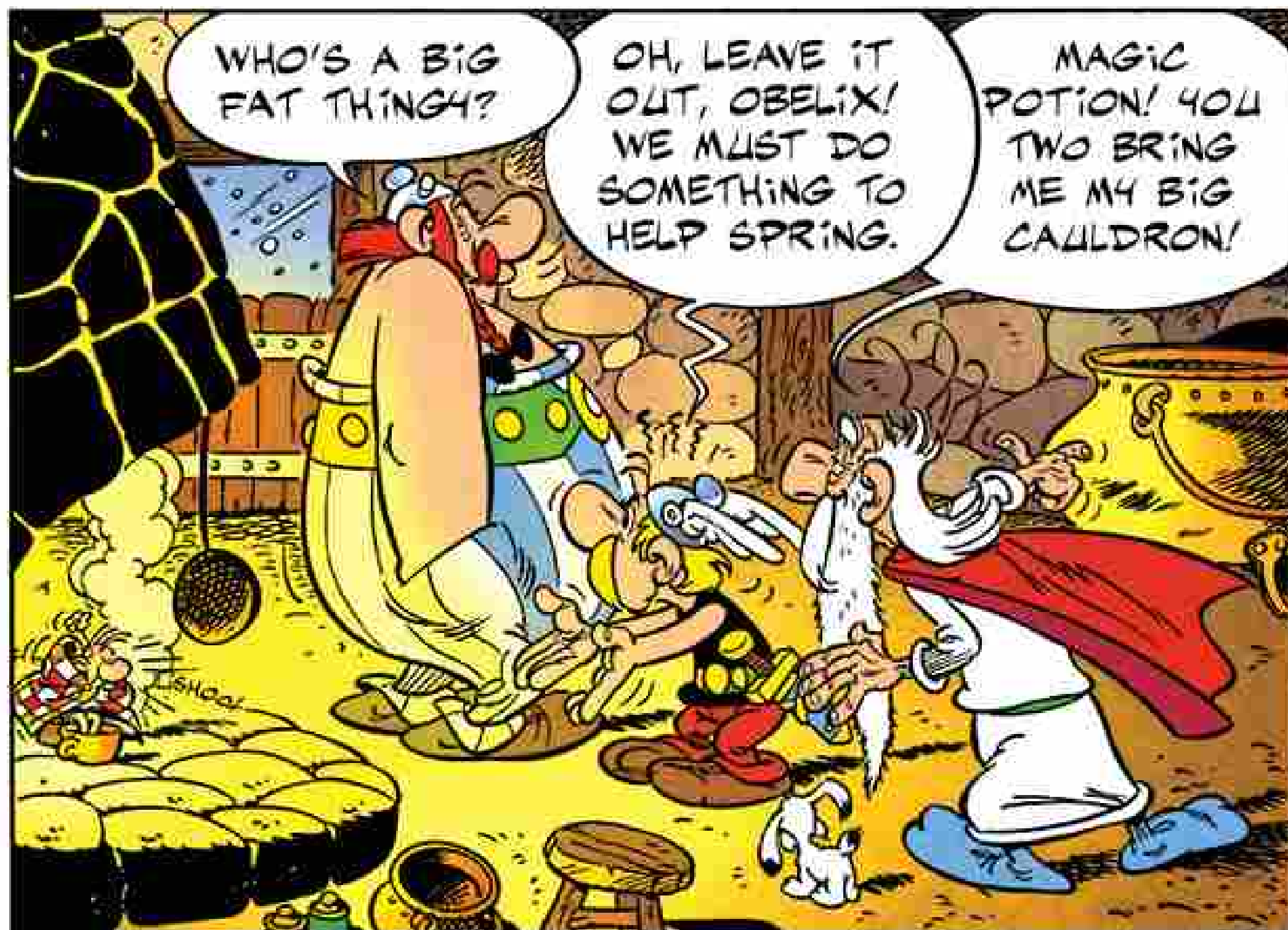


René was delighted with the magical seasons, so Albert created this two-page story on his own, as well as the cover picture of the magazine. Albert was inspired by his childhood, when he loved walking from the Faubourg Saint-Antoine to Aligre market near the Bastille in Paris, where the costermongers sold fruit and vegetables from their barrows.

René simply suggested to his friend the part played by Obelix in the final delightful gag.

"Pilote", n° 334





The mascot

13 June 1968

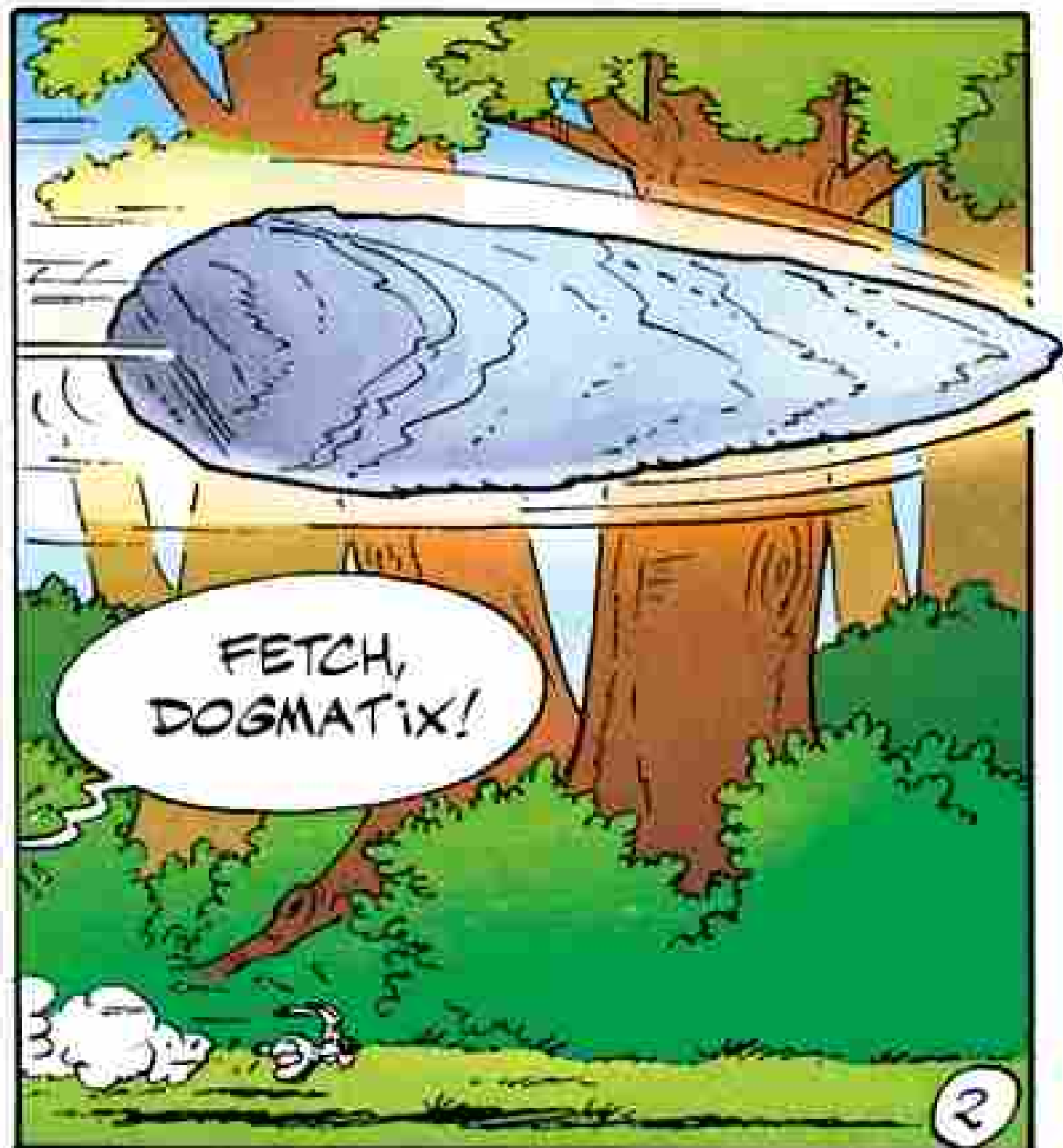
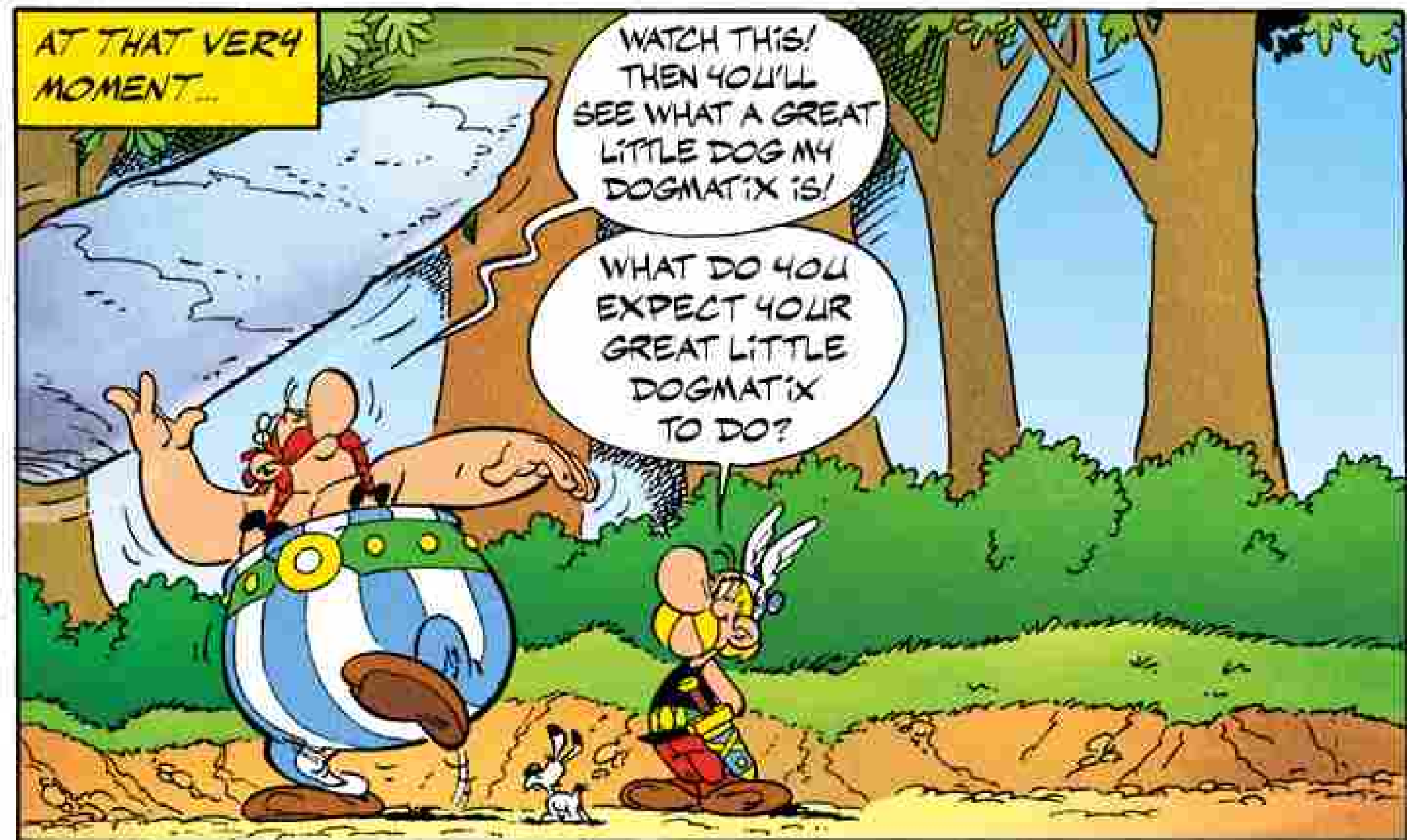
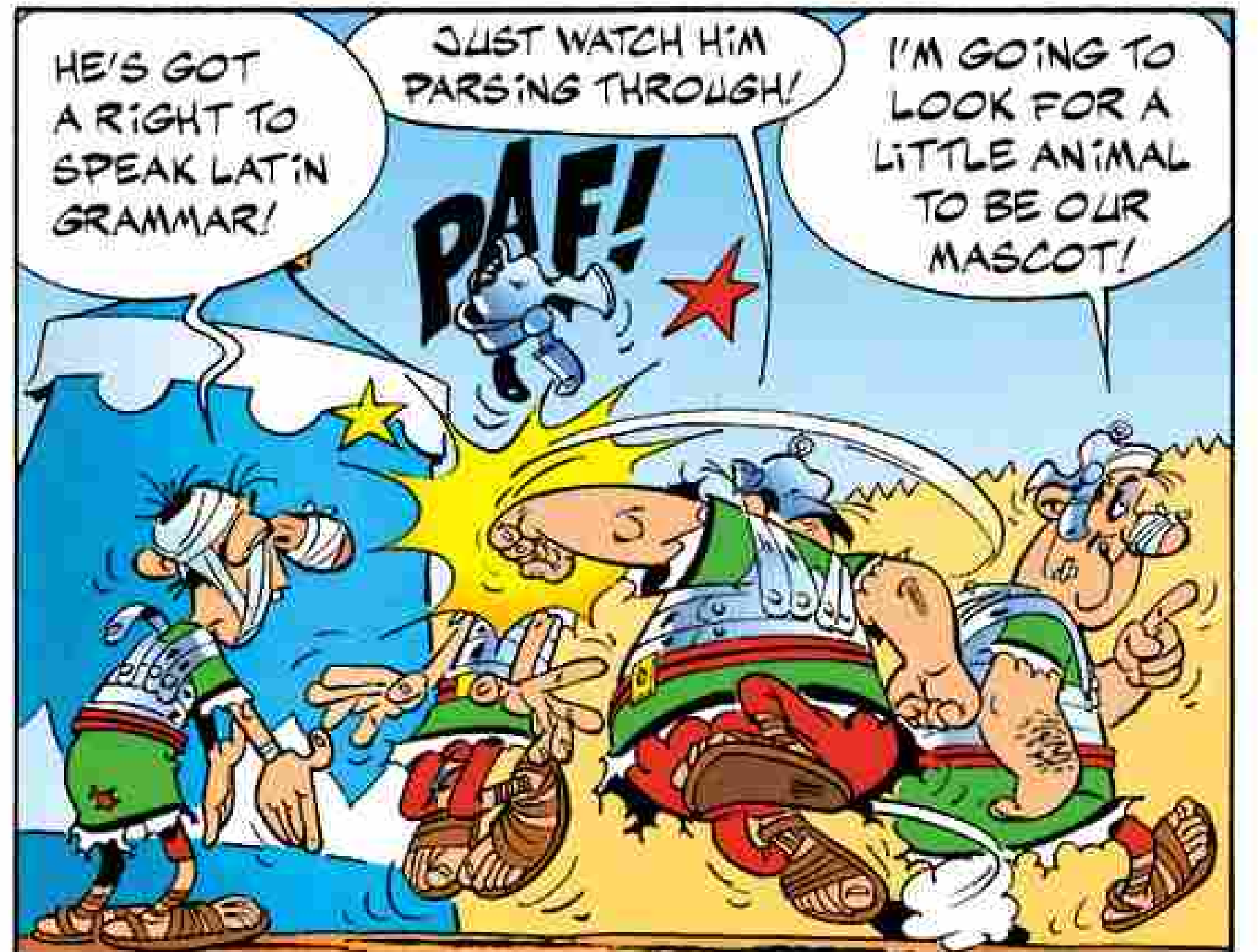
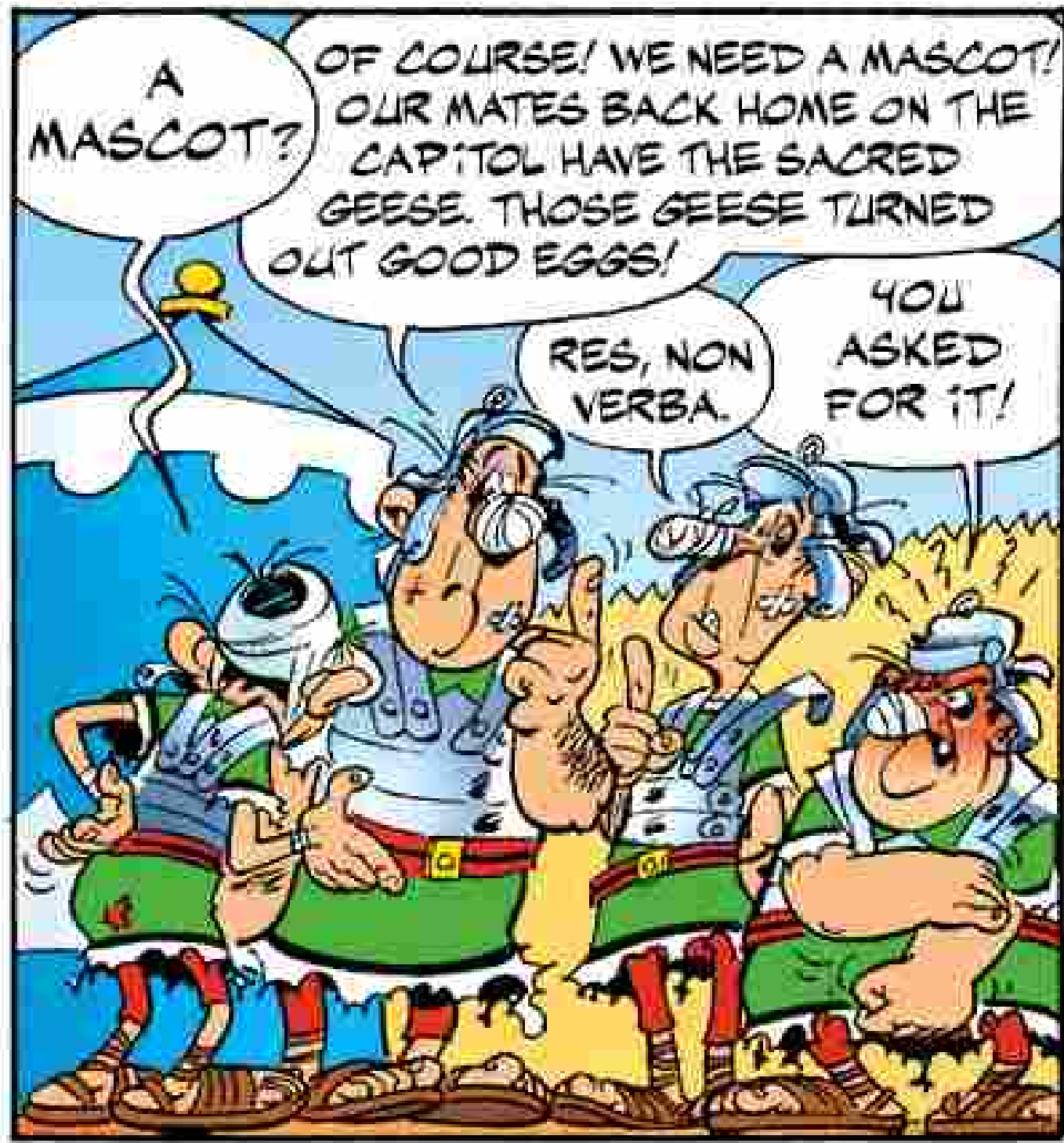
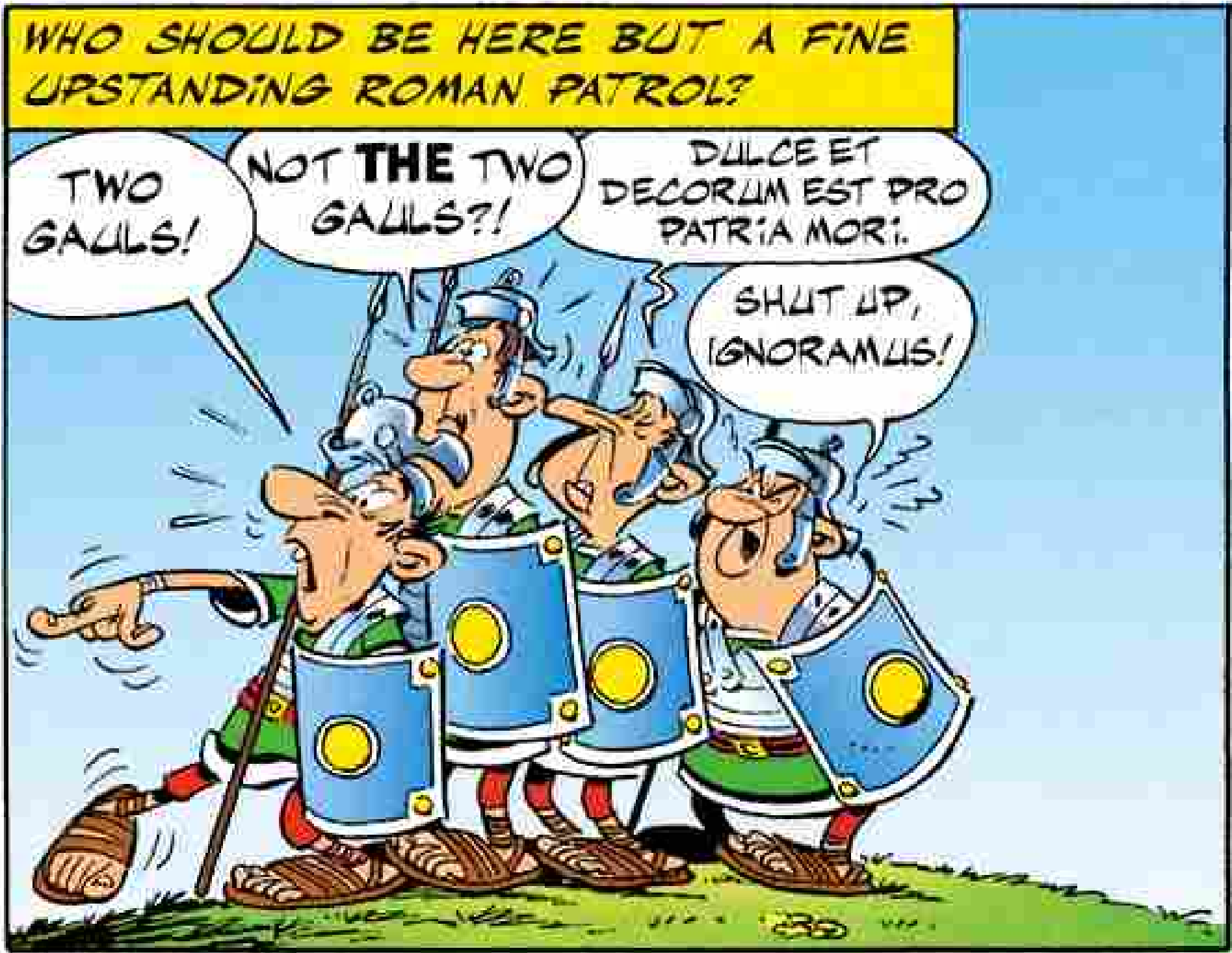
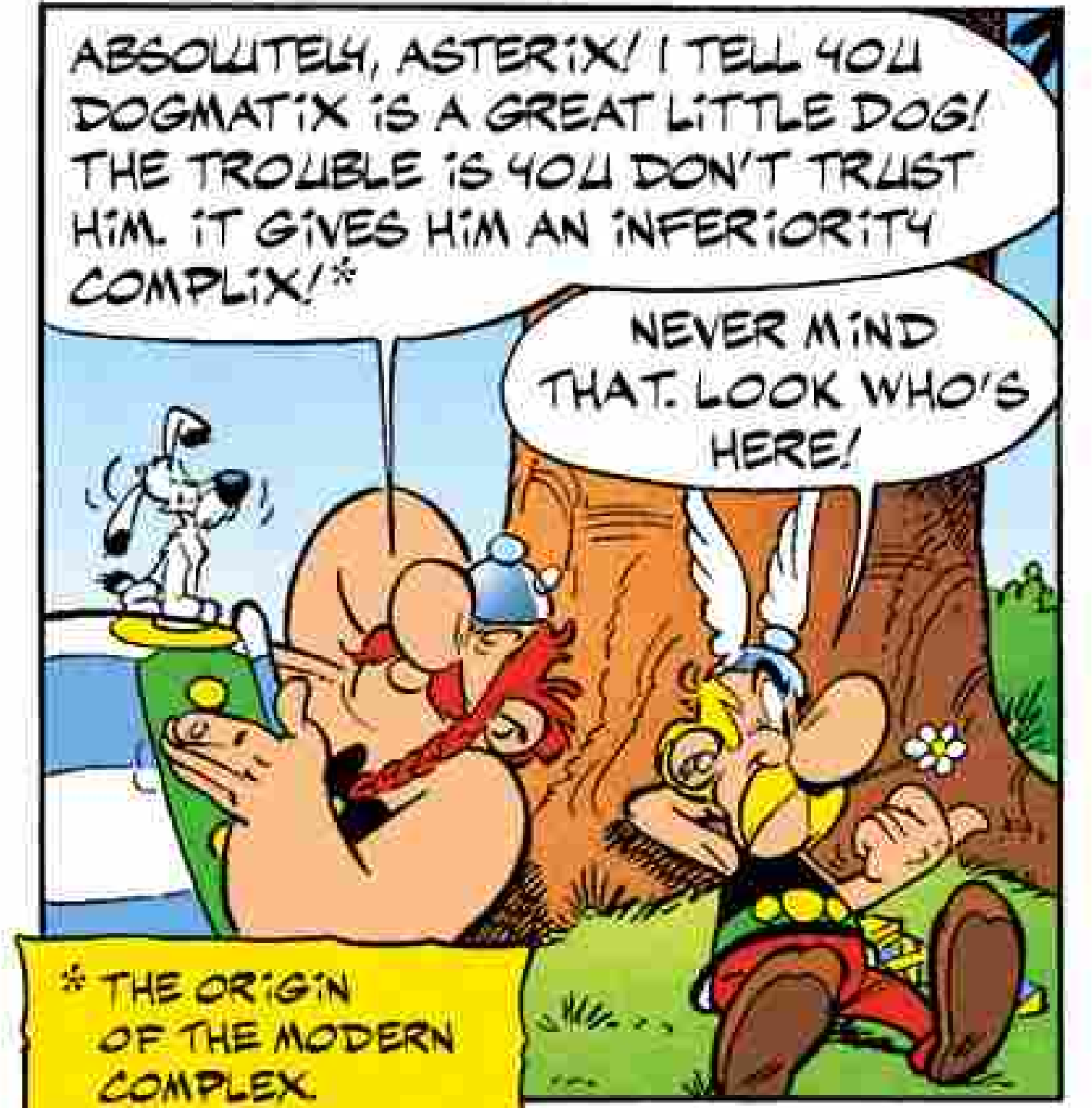
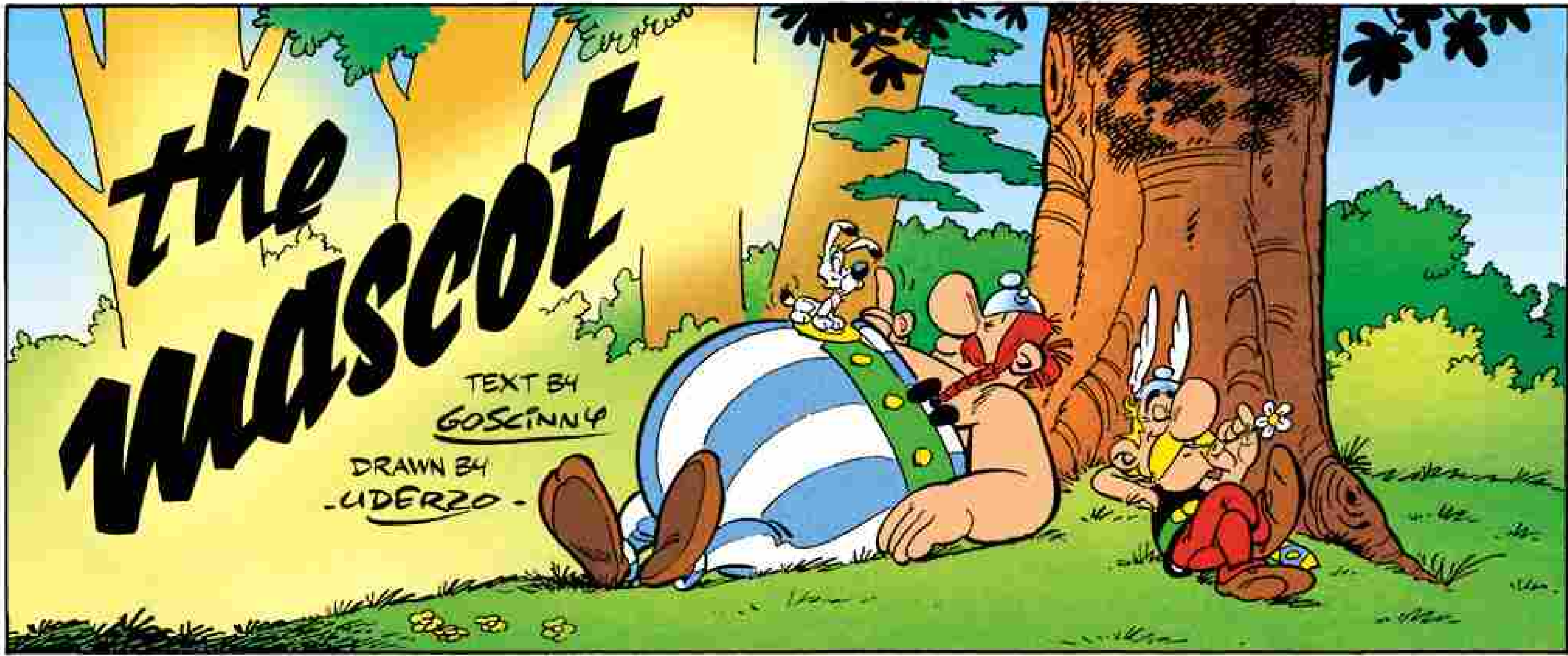
Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

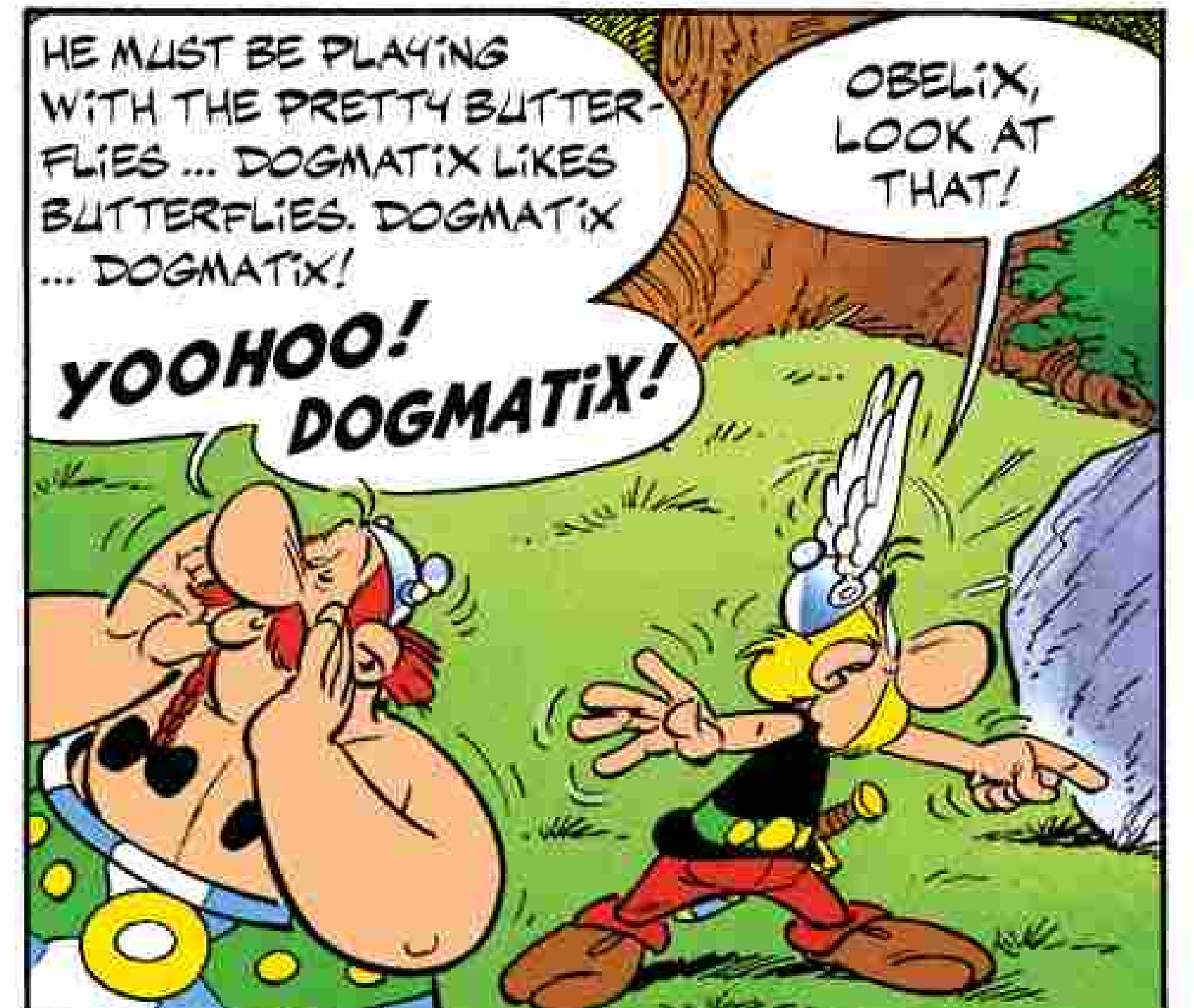
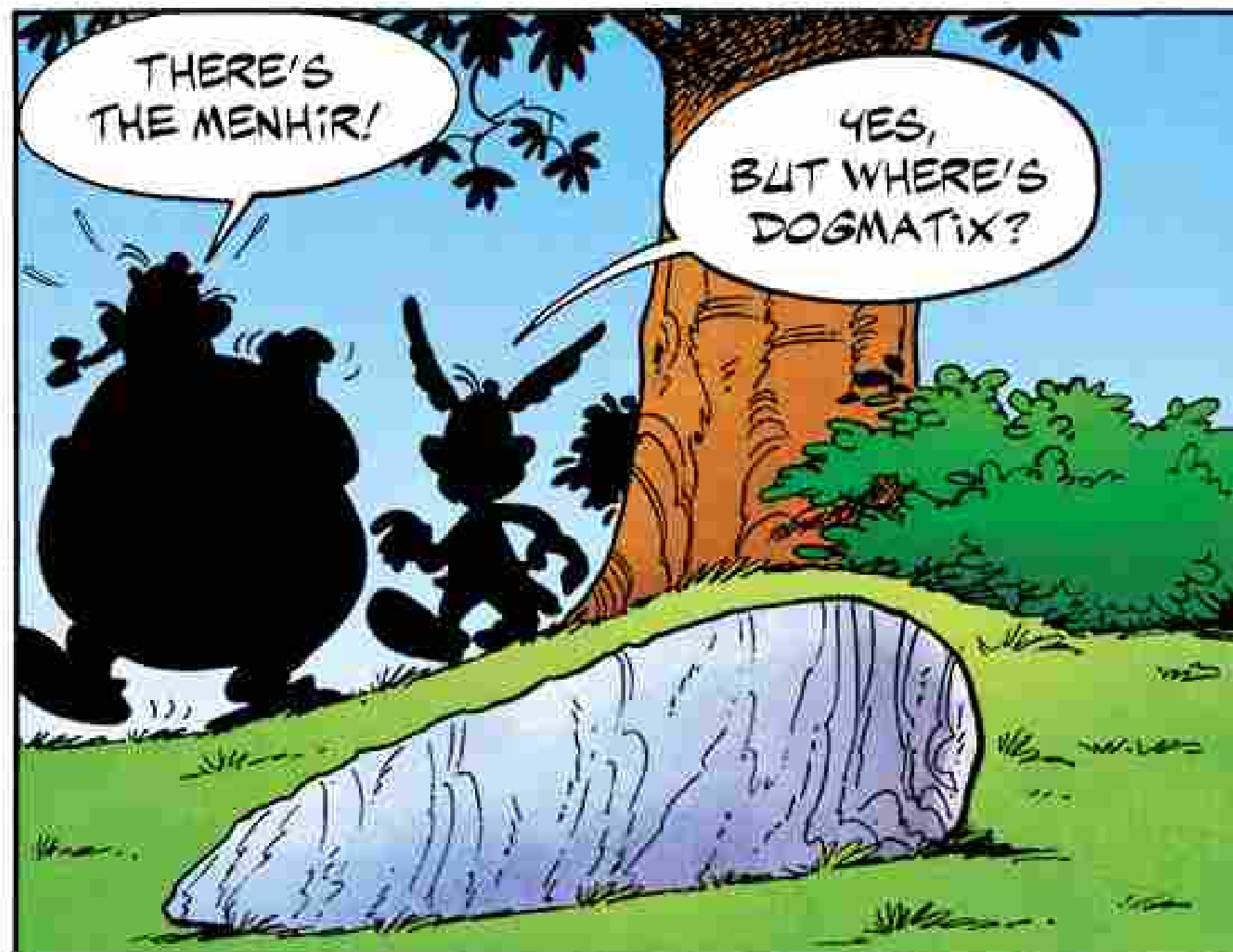
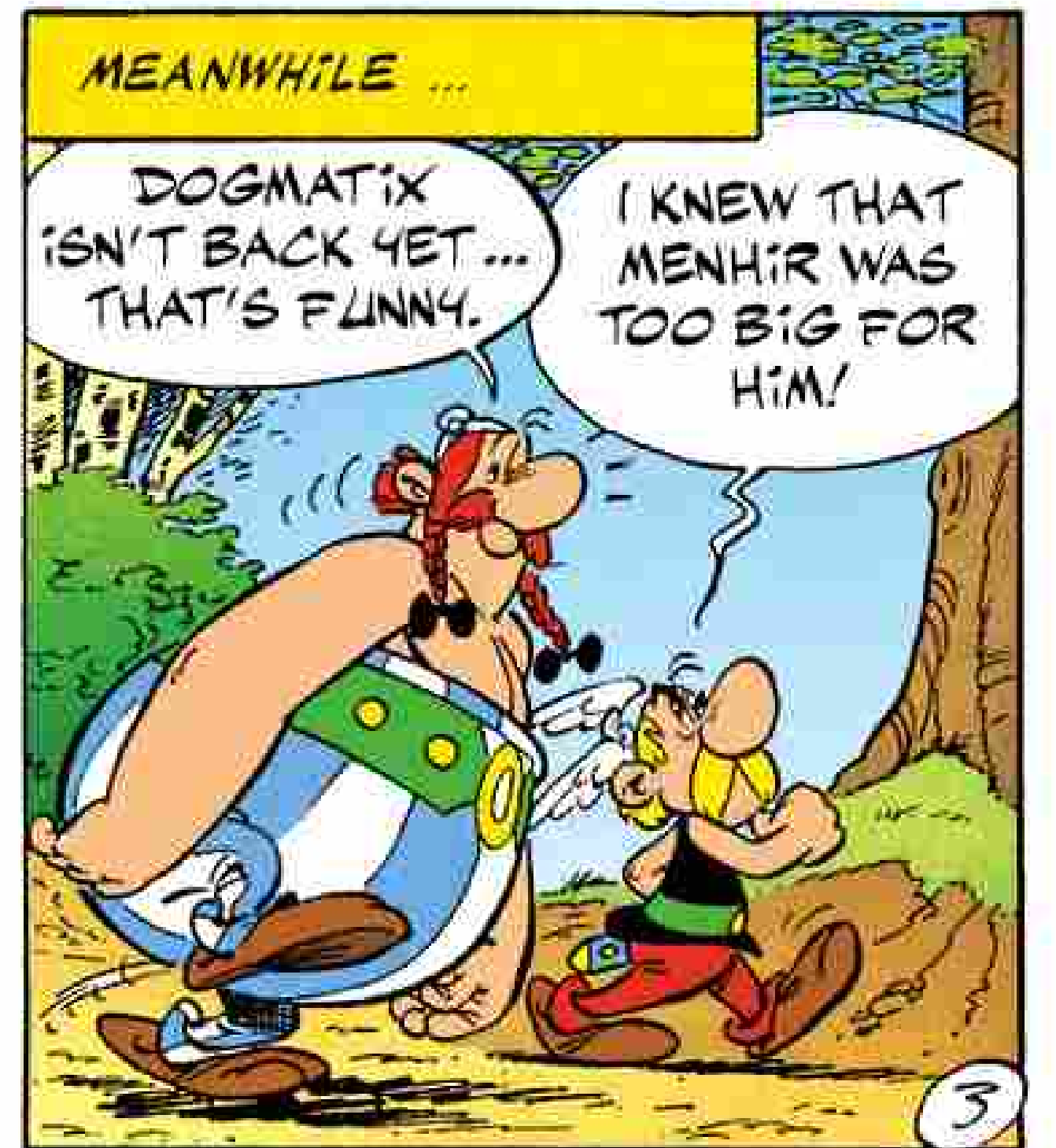
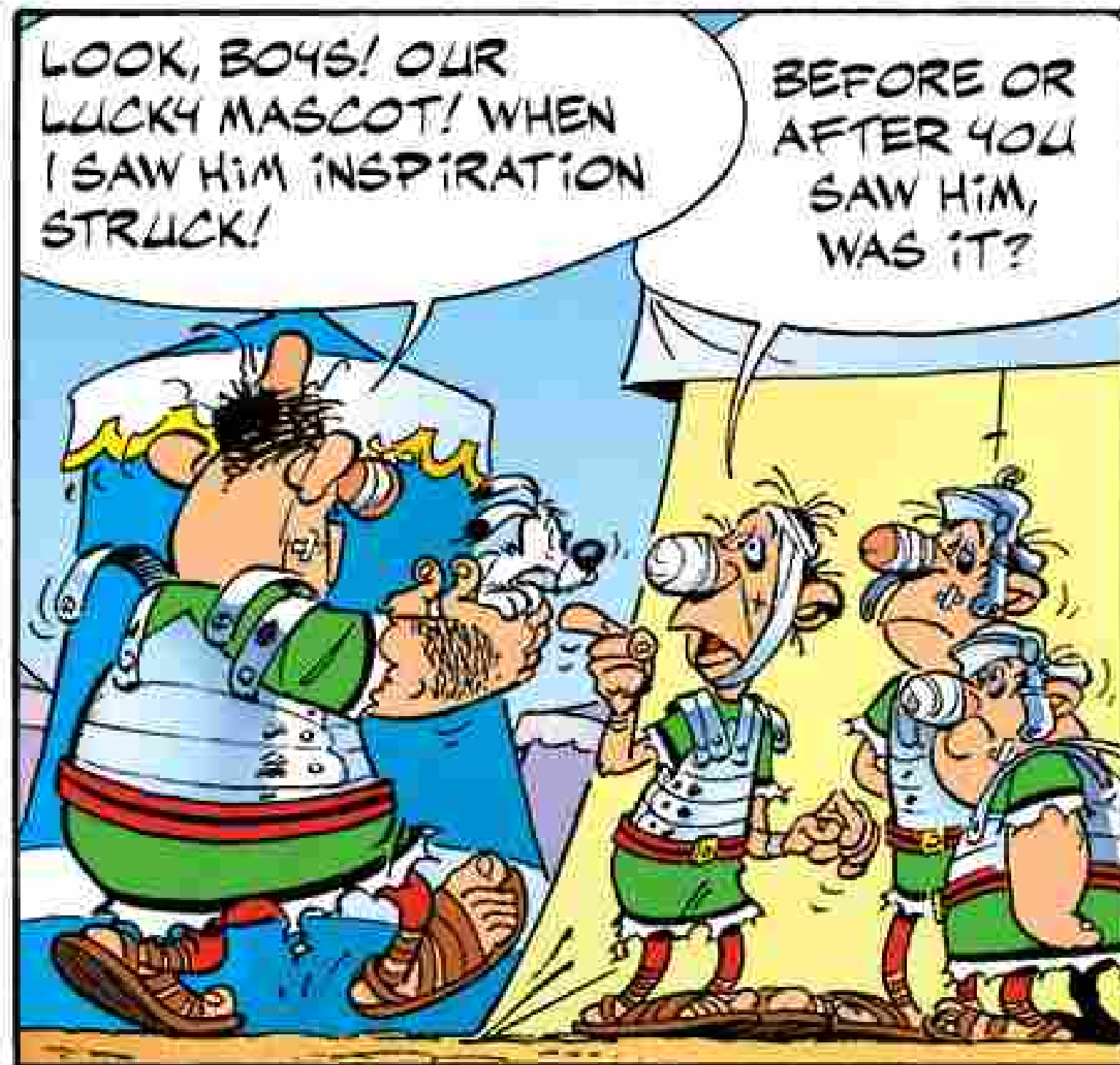
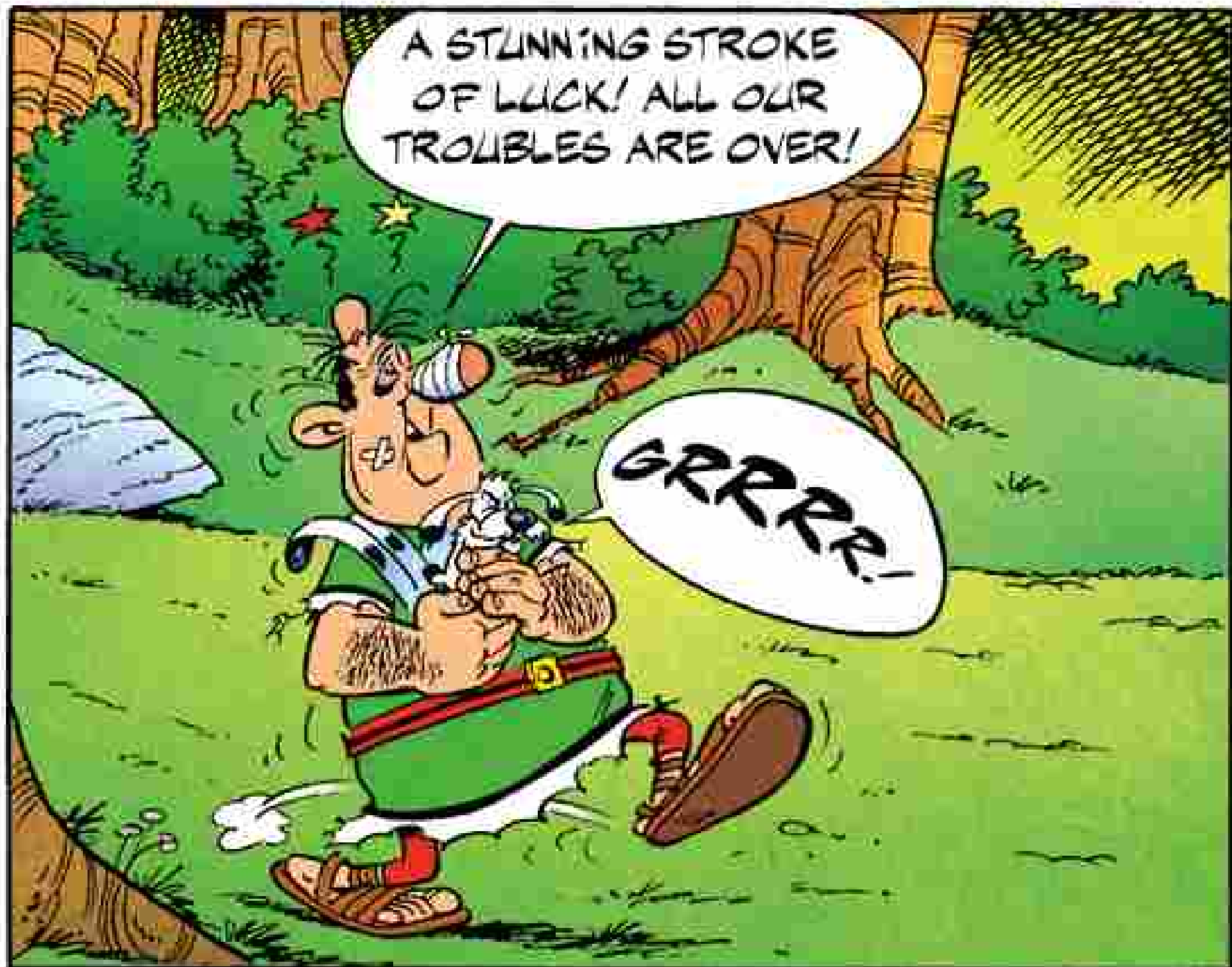
The story of "The mascot" was originally published in the smaller format of the "Super Pocket Pilote" series, and in a magazine commissioned by the town council of Romainville — one of the suburbs of Lutetia. With a name like that — "Roman-town" — it was not surprising that the council should invite Asterix and his friends to pay a visit. In this complete story, full of the familiar features of the Asterix adventures, Dogmatix is kidnapped. Obelix's little friend, who first appeared in "Asterix and the Banquet", soon became one of the favourite characters in the village. Here he is the victim of his own charms — after all, anyone would want a little dog who was so keen on preserving the environment twenty centuries ahead of his time!

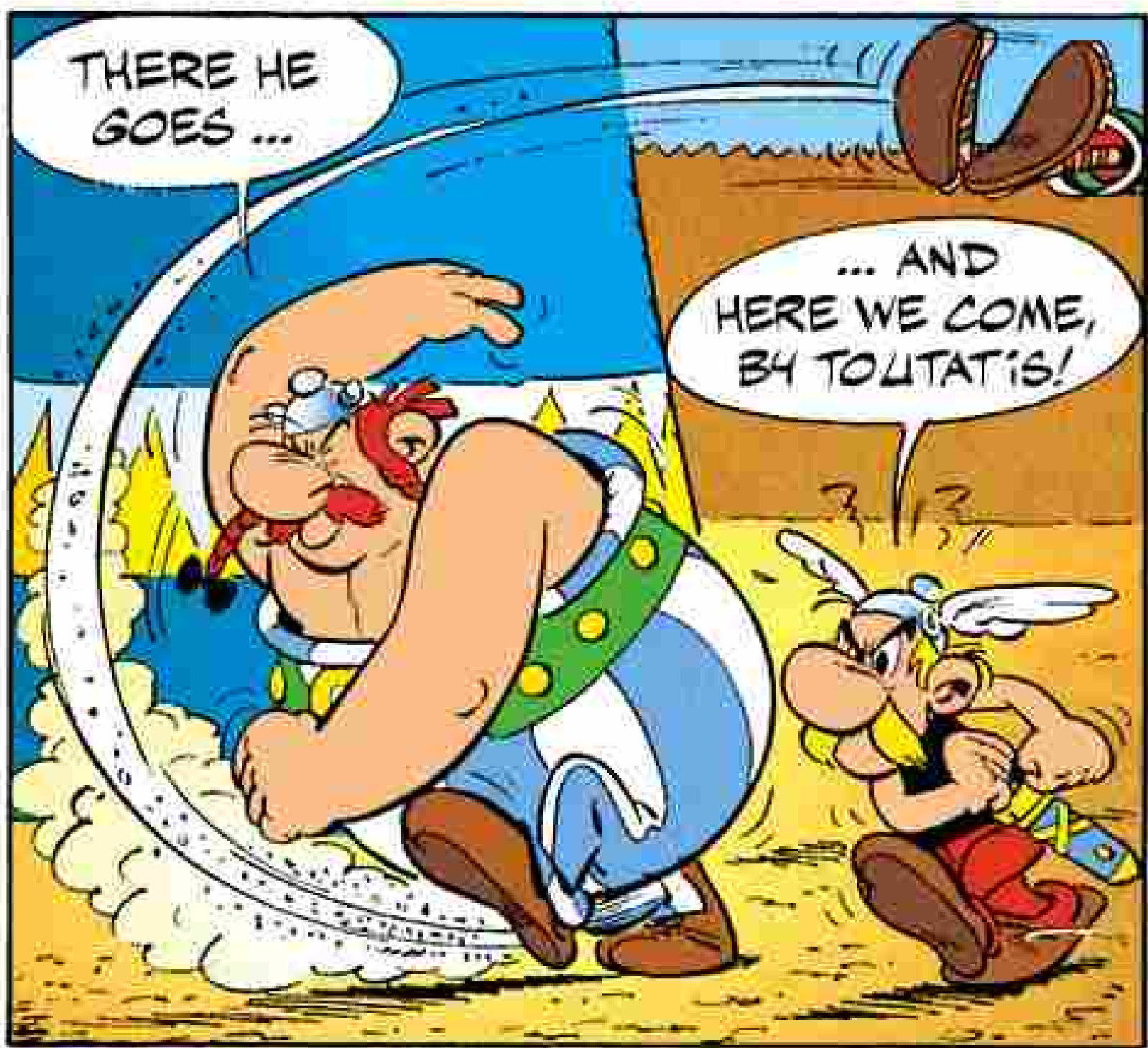
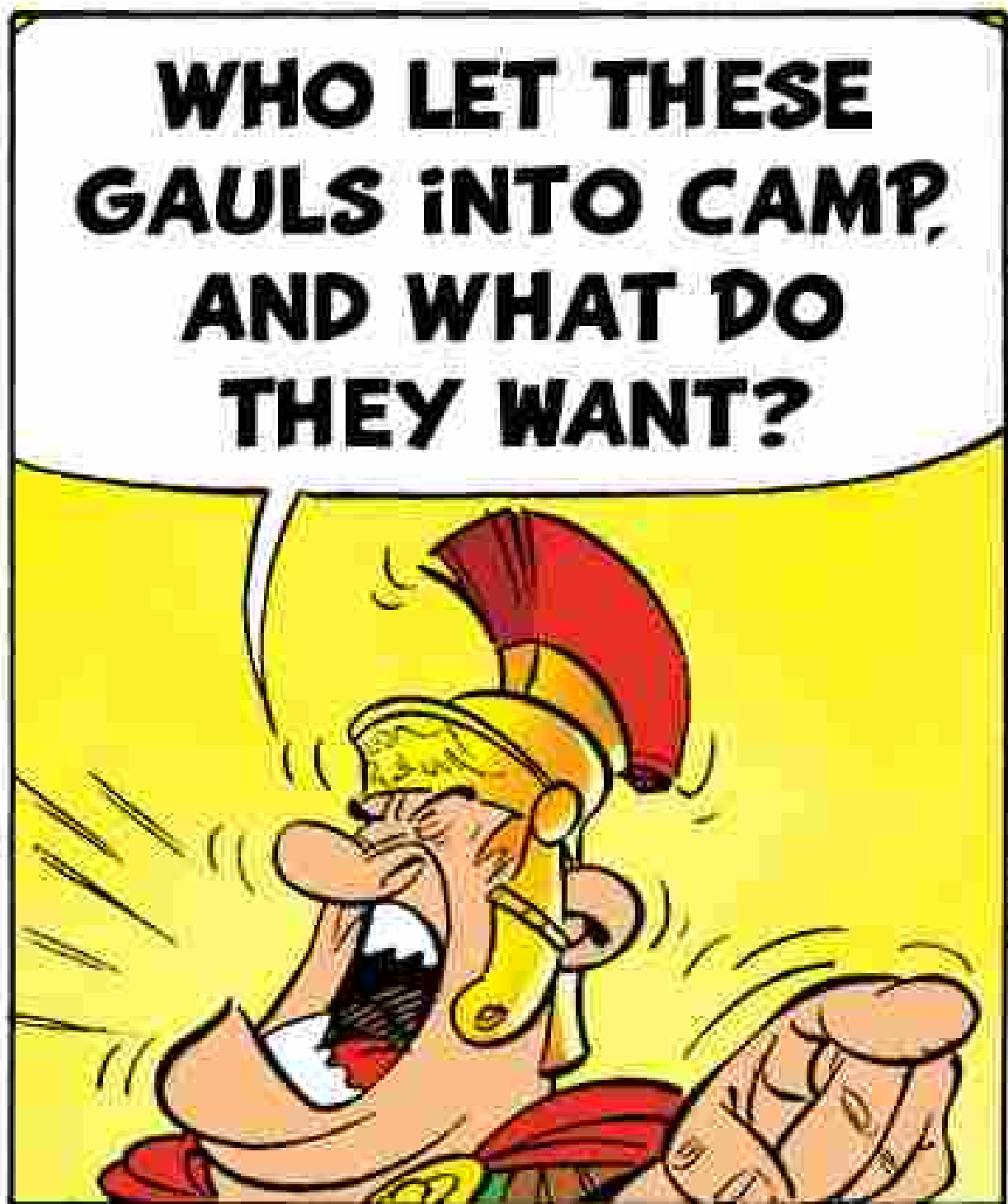
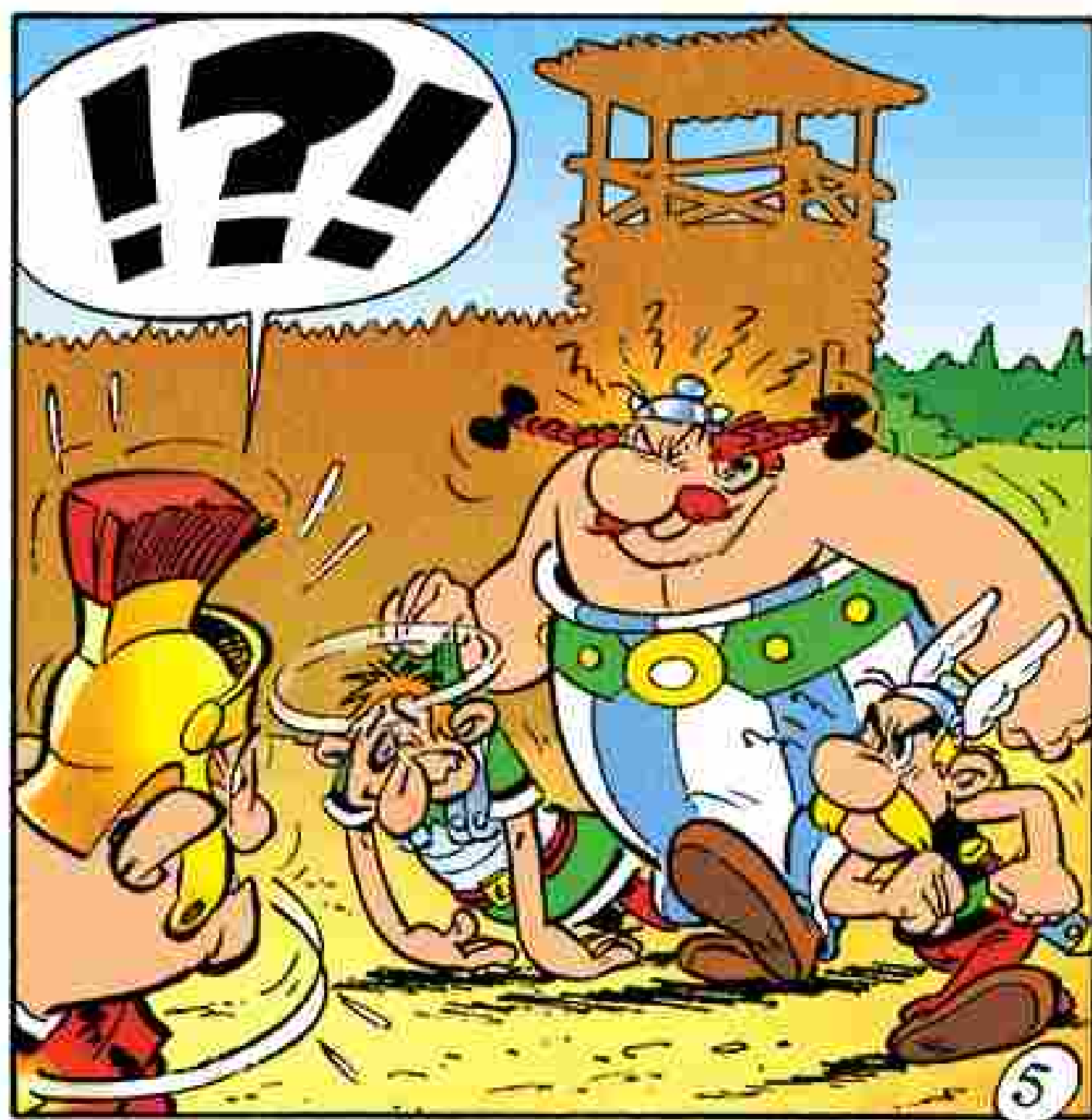
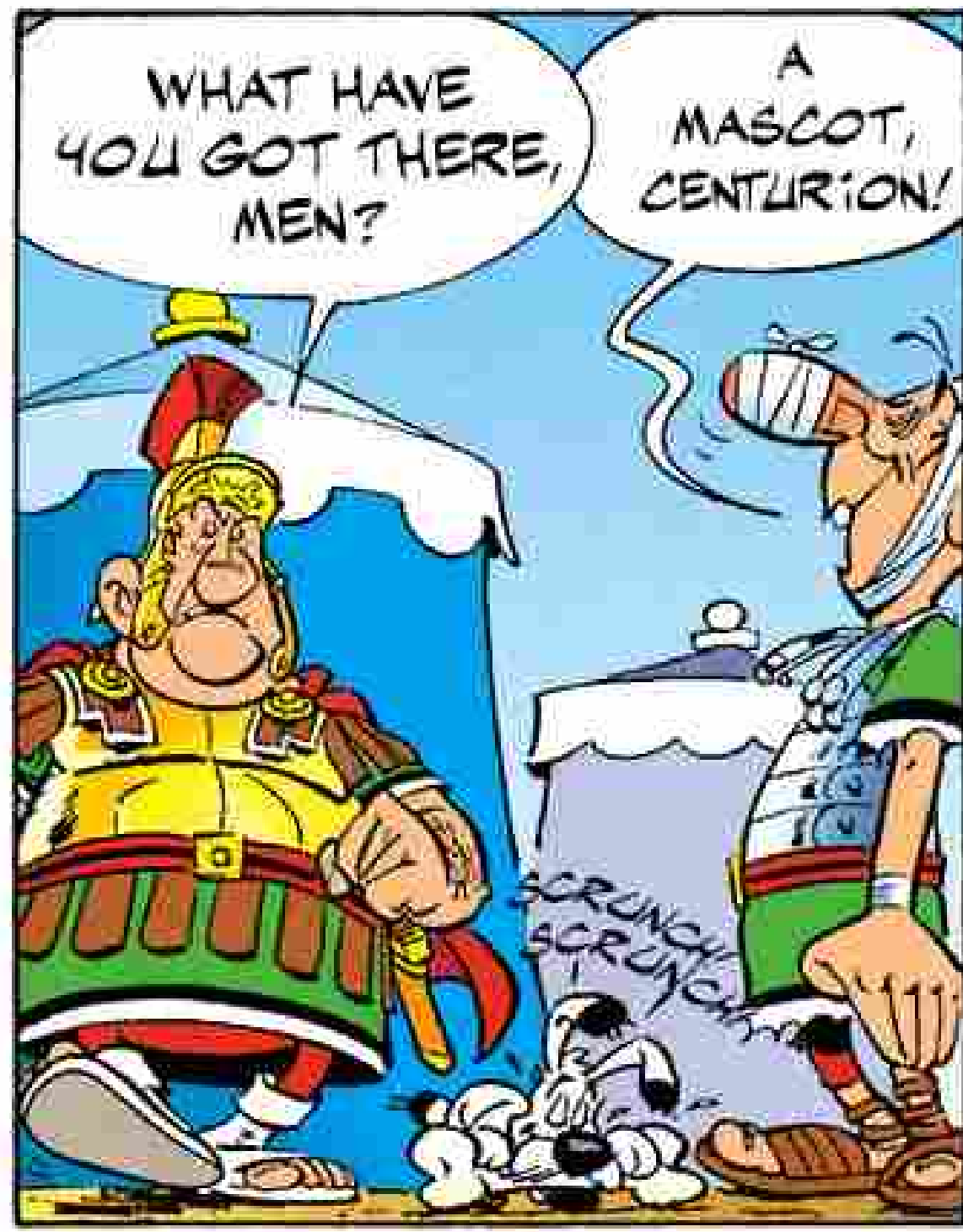
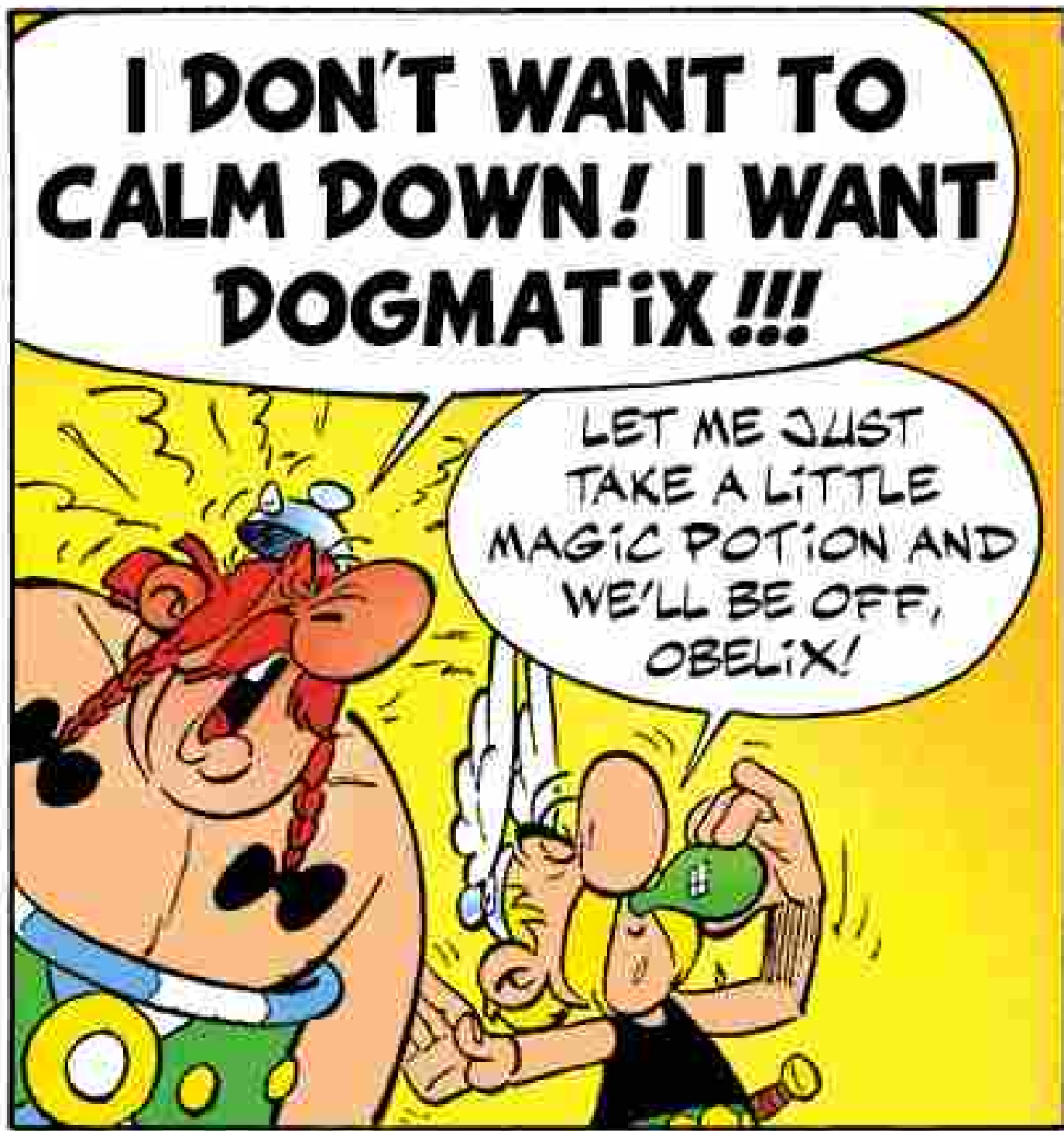
It was all thanks to Dogmatix that Obelix stopped uprooting trees and became ecologically conscious!

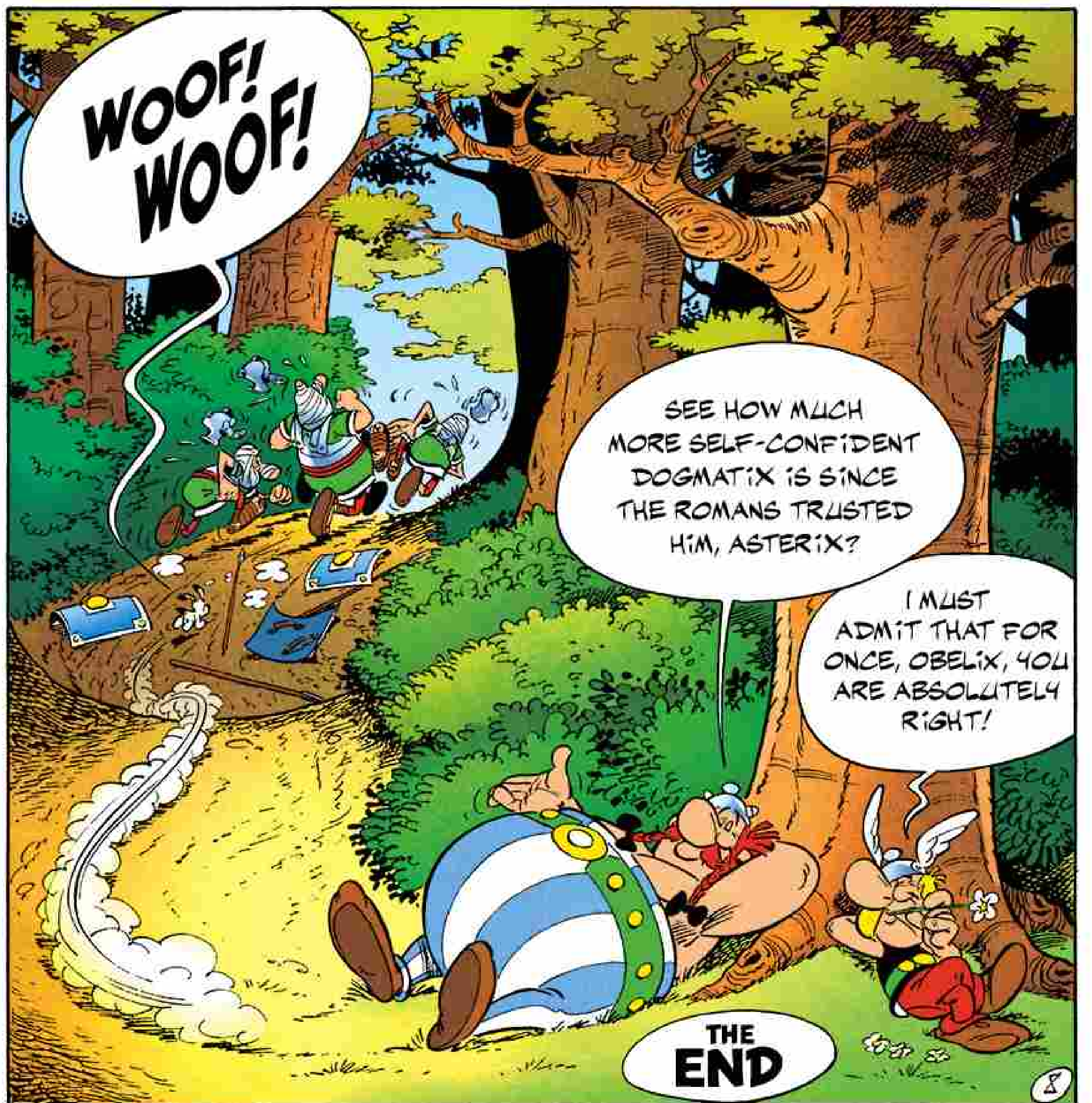
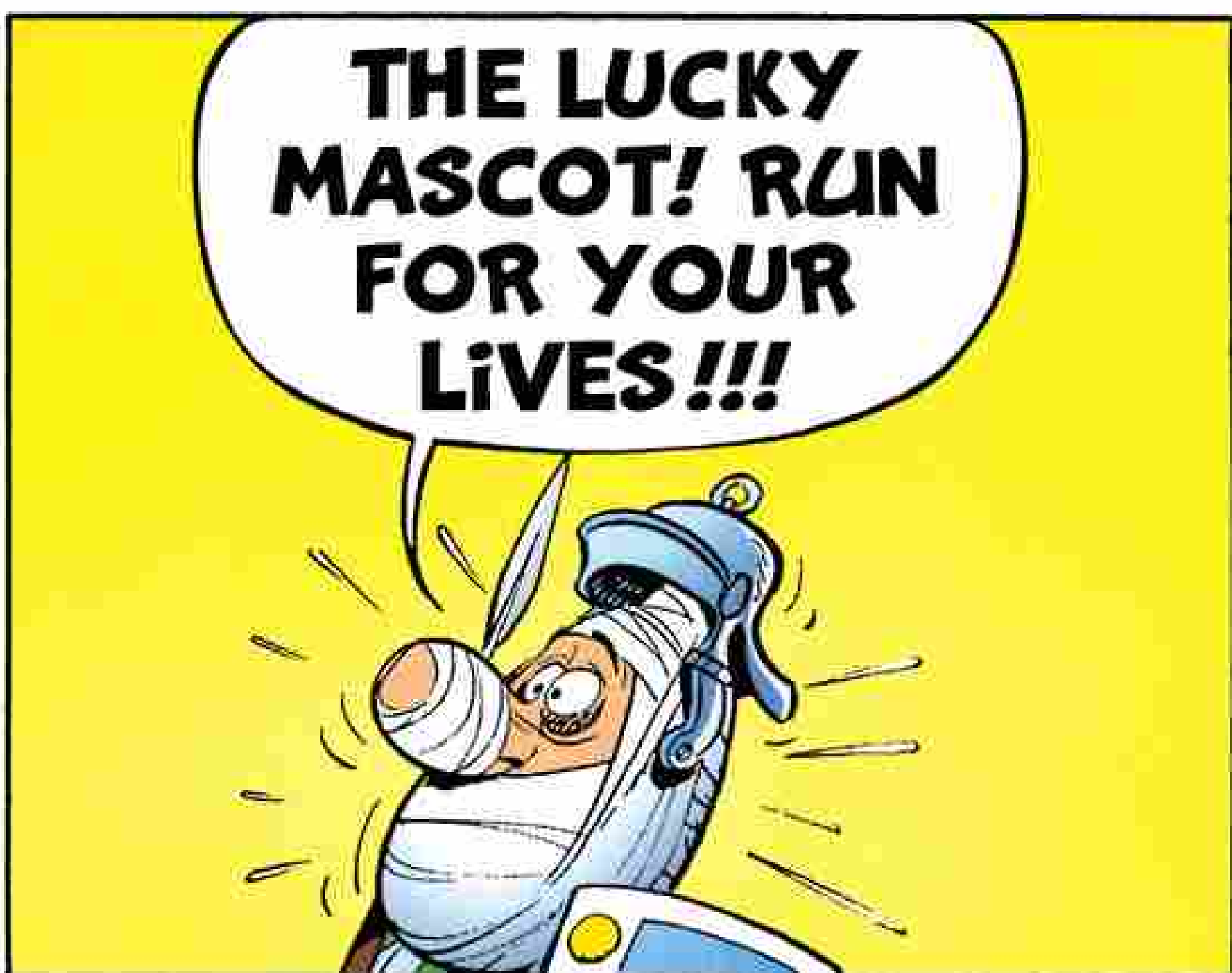


"Super Pocket Pilote", n°1





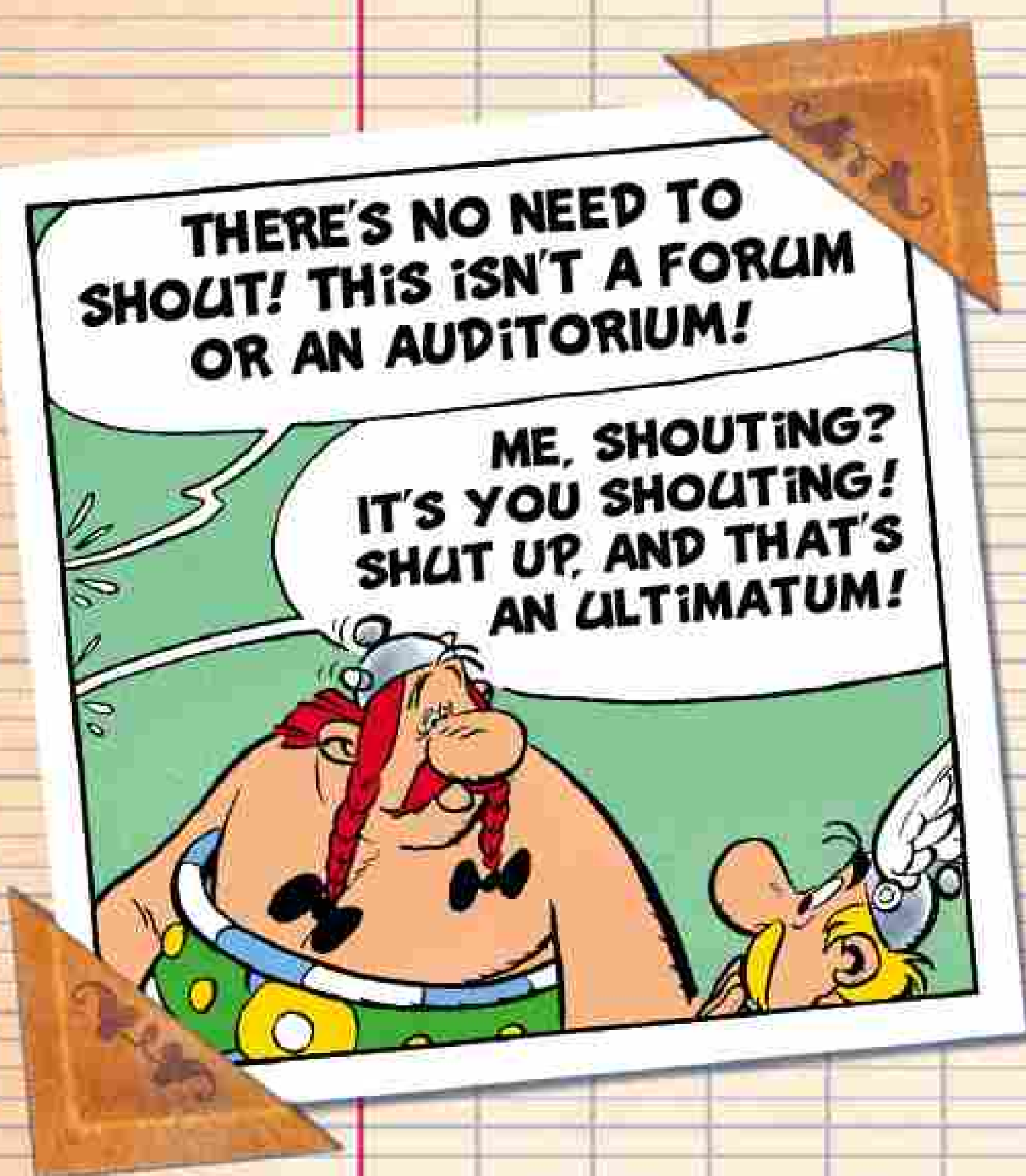




Latinomania

March 1973

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

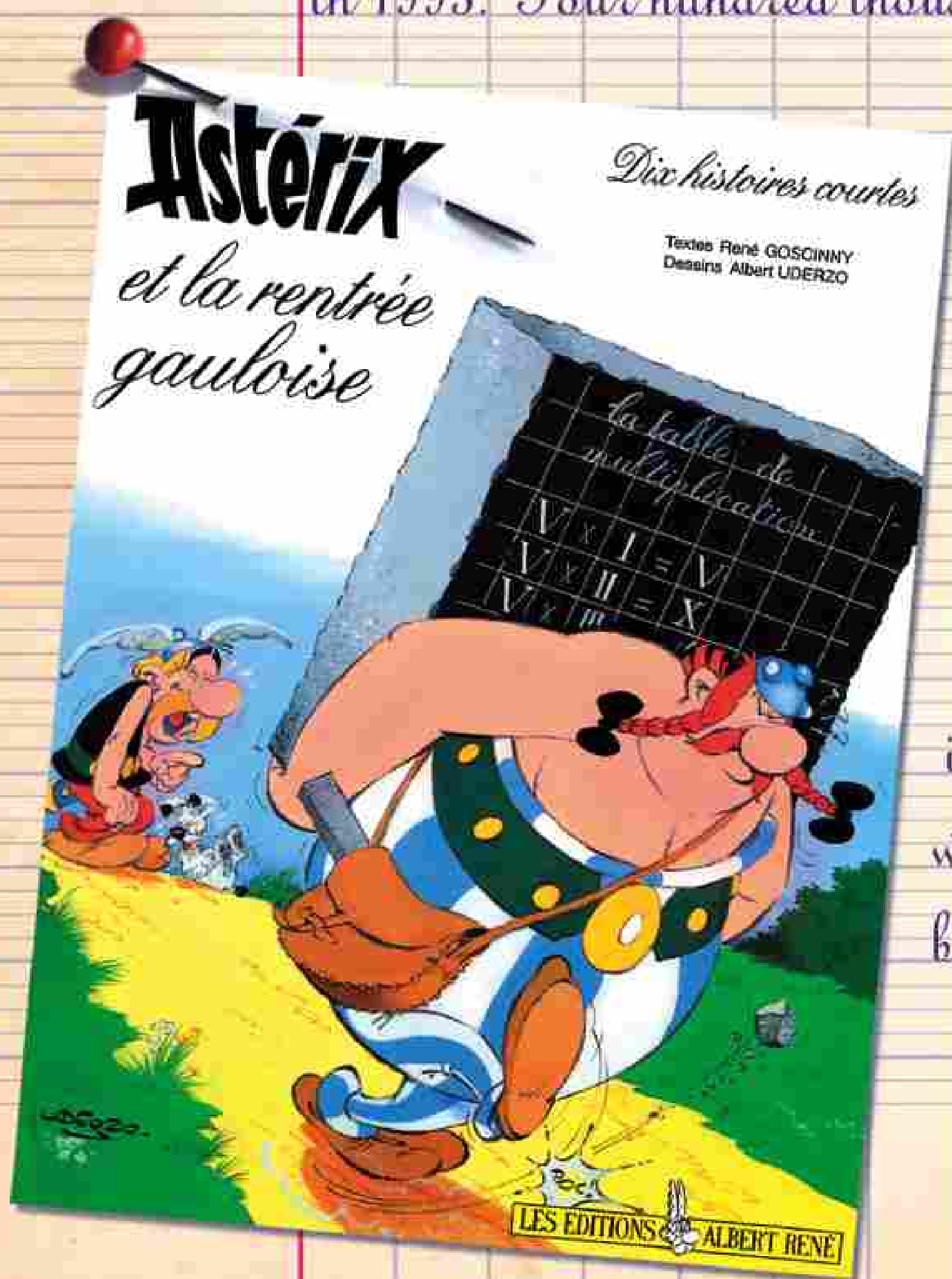


Thirty years ago, amused by the campaign against the use of English words in French — a phenomenon known as “franglais” — René Goscinny decided to use the Gauls to poke fun at it. He replied indirectly and humorously to the famous author Maurice Druon, one of the keenest to defend the purity of French, by imagining a similar fashion for “Latinisms” in occupied Gaul, and wrote this story, drawn by Albert Uderzo. It will certainly teach you more Latin than the other stories in this collection, by Toutatis!

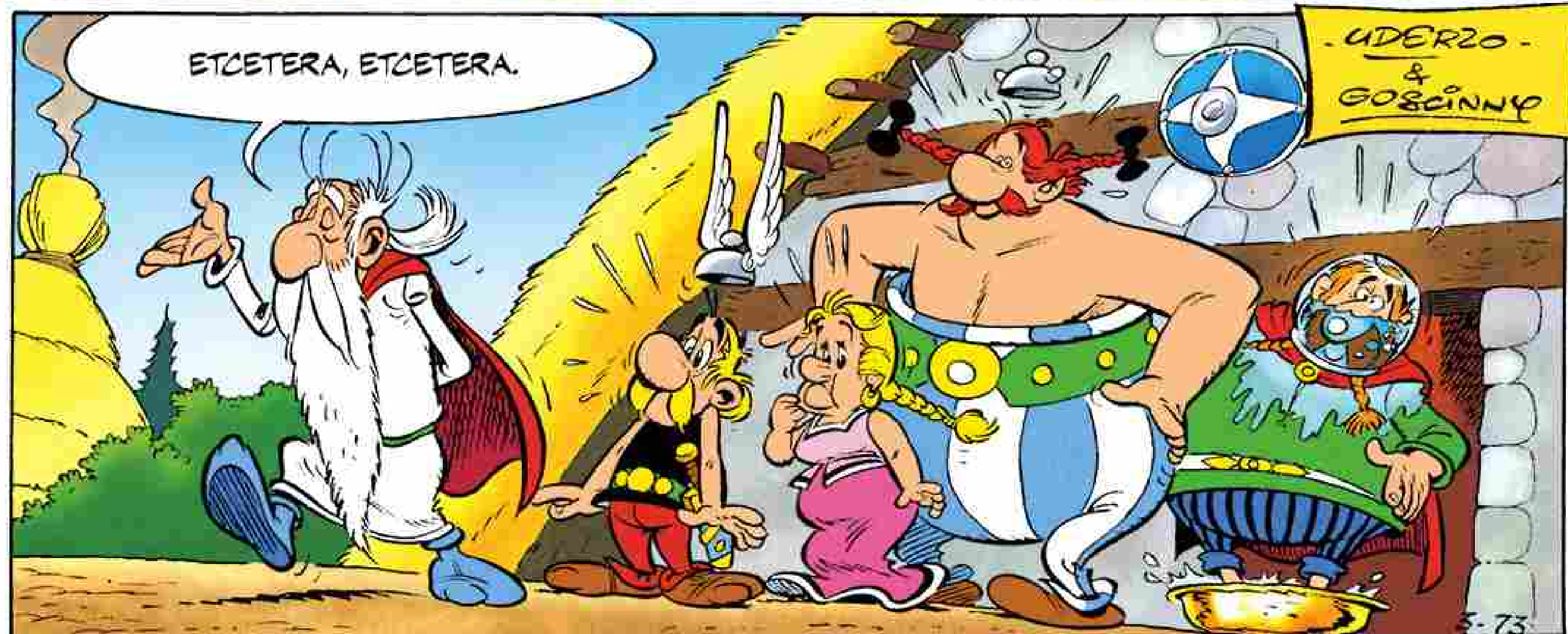
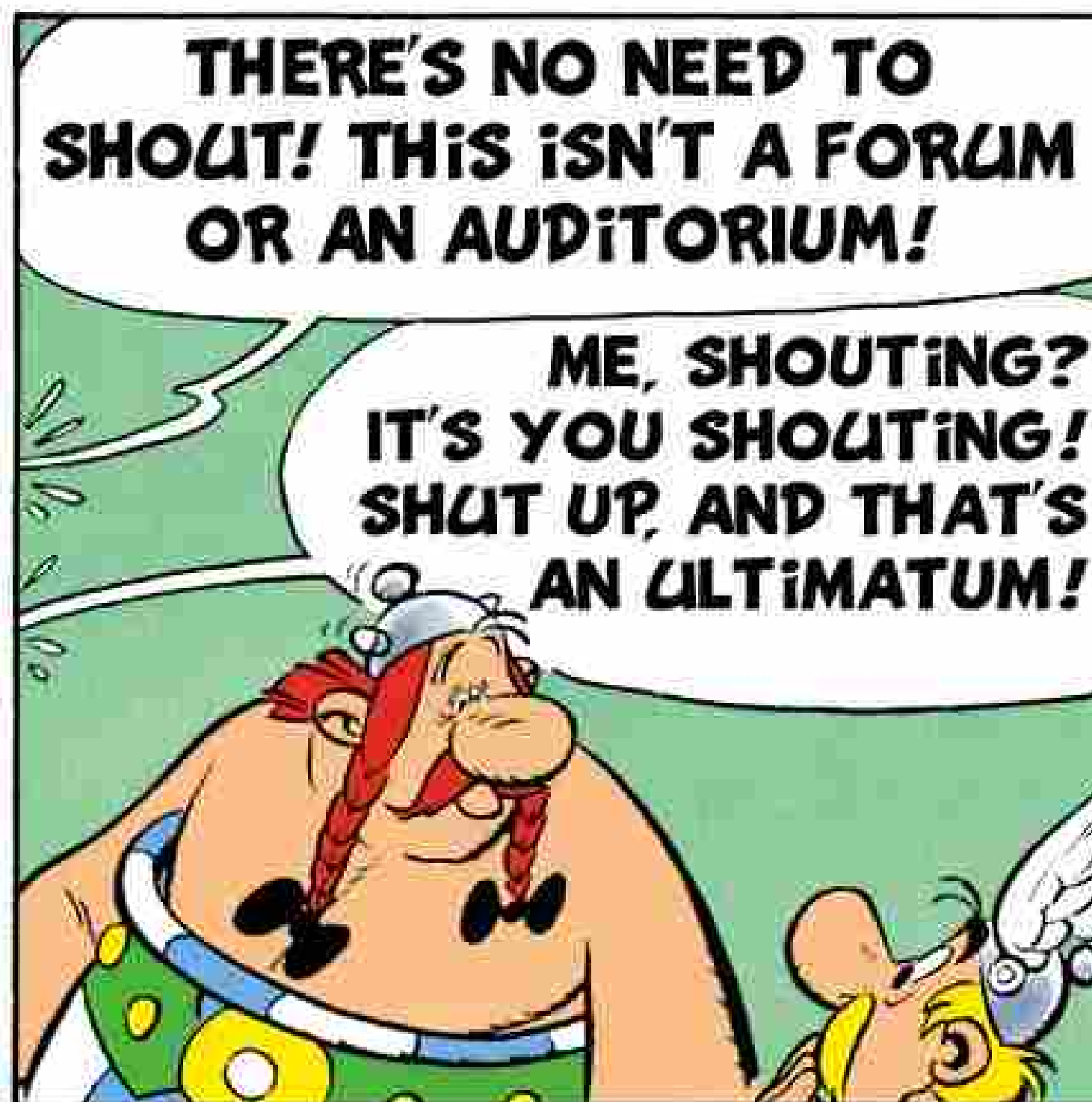
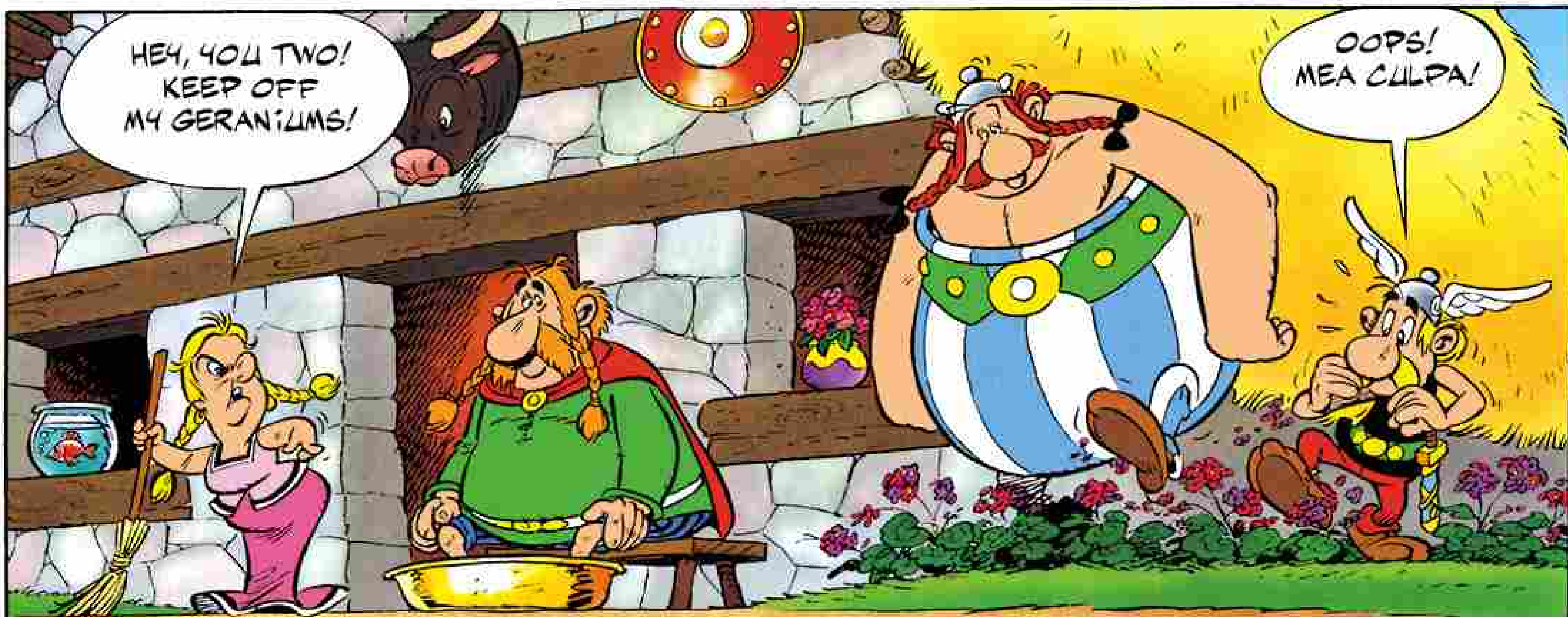
This story, entitled “Latinomania” or “Et cetera”, has been completely re-inked and re-coloured, like most of the stories here that date from the 1960s. Below is the cover of the first edition of the book you are now reading, published in France in 1993. Four hundred thousand copies were sold within weeks. However, it has never

before been published in English, so all fourteen stories are new to readers of Asterix on the other side of the Channel.

Just for the record, on 10 August 1993, the day the first edition (in a giftbox with the videos of the first Asterix films) was released, the French publishers’ switchboards crashed. The success of the book, which sold far more copies than the most optimistic had expected, persuaded us to promise a new, improved and longer edition to the readers and booksellers who have been waiting eagerly for it. Would we ever give in to blackmail? By Toutatis, no! But here at last is the book!



BACK IN THE 60s A NUMBER OF ENGLISH WORDS INVADED THE FRENCH LANGUAGE. THE RESULT WAS KNOWN AS FRANGLAIS, BUT IT WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME SUCH A THING HAD HAPPENED. IN ANCIENT GAUL BACK IN THE 60s (BC, OF COURSE) ...



The authors take the stage

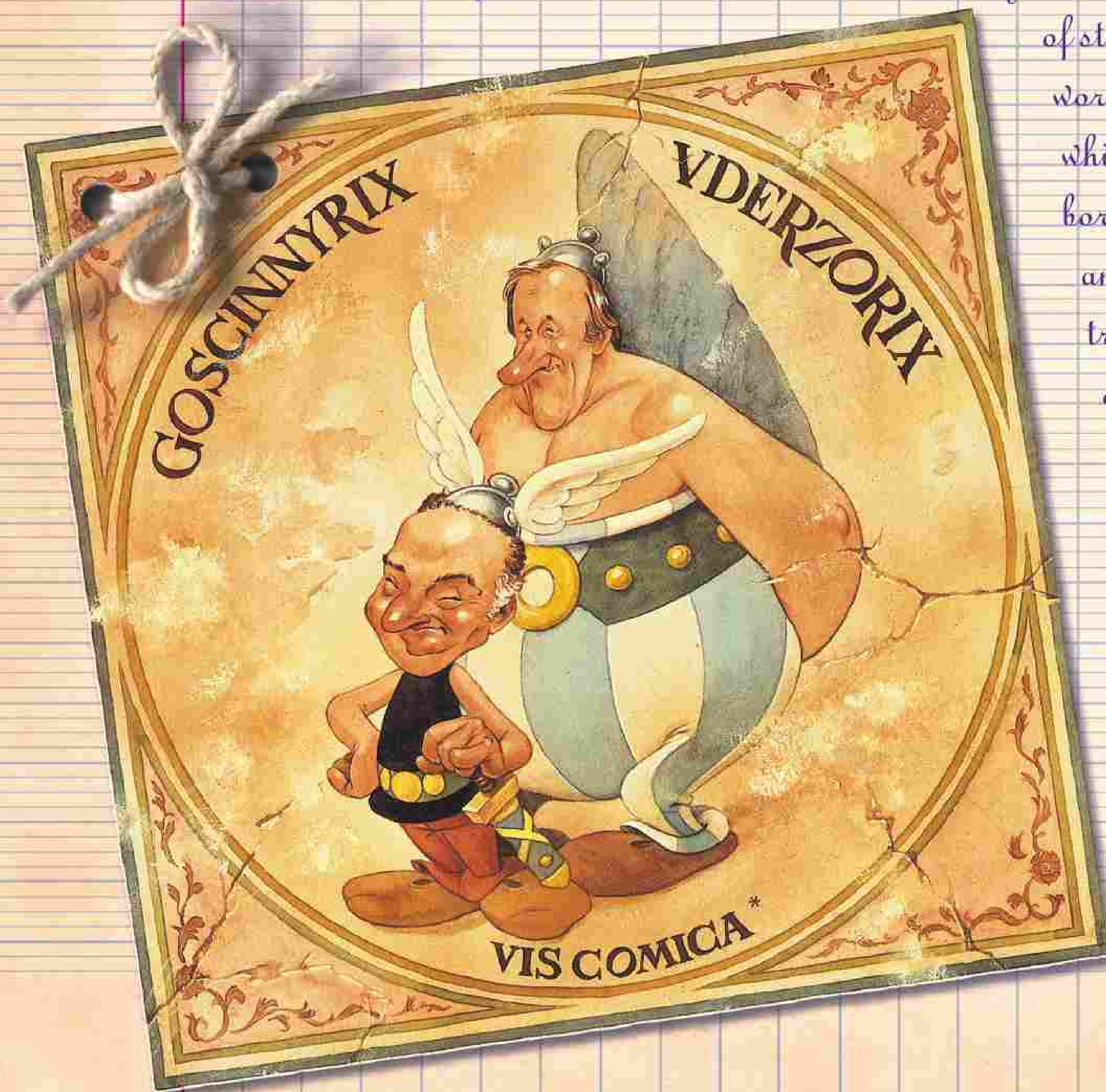
1962 - 1963

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

Although strip cartoons tend to be written and drawn to a standard pattern today, in the 1960s and 1970s there was more of a libertarian spirit in them, and they often ignored graphic conventions and logical time schemes. Showing the authors in the company of their own creations was almost obligatory — readers expected and wanted it, and indeed that was one of the reasons for the magical sympathy between readers and authors.

It was in this spirit that René and Albert, like many other writers and illustrators

of strip cartoons, invented works of pure fantasy in which they crossed the borders of space and time, and finally revealed the true story of the creation of Asterix.



* The power to make people laugh: from an epigram by Caesar on Terence, the Latin poet.

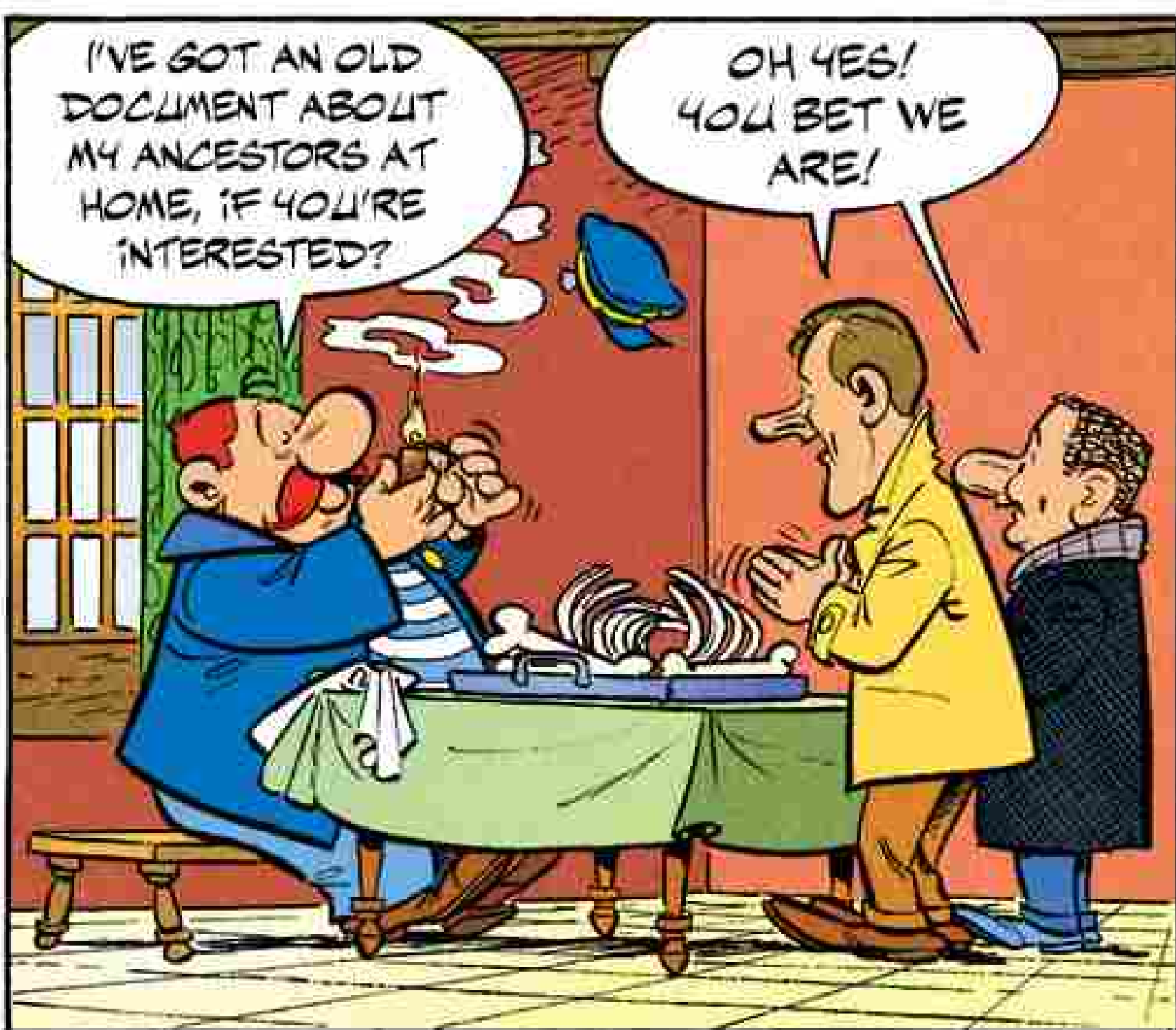
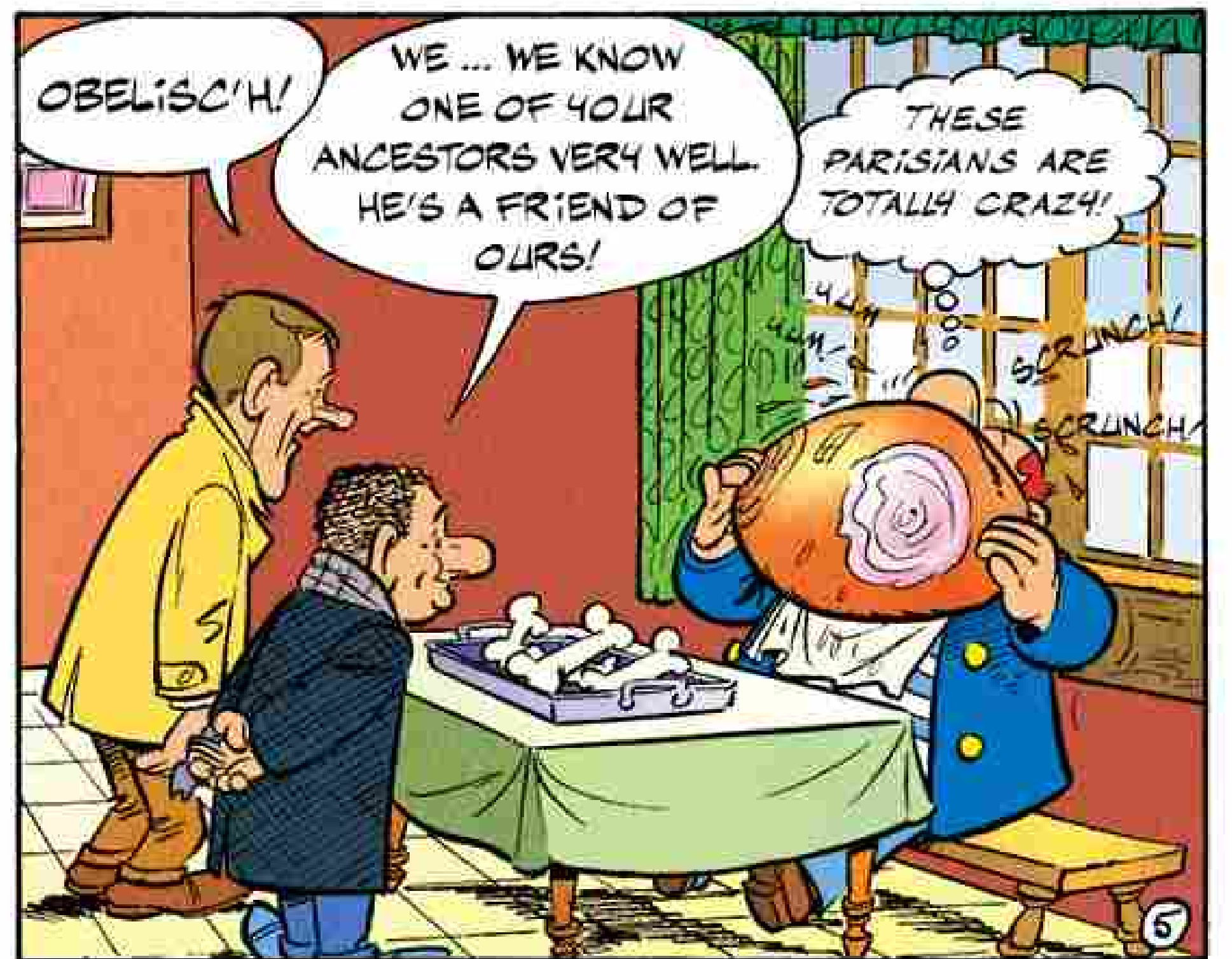
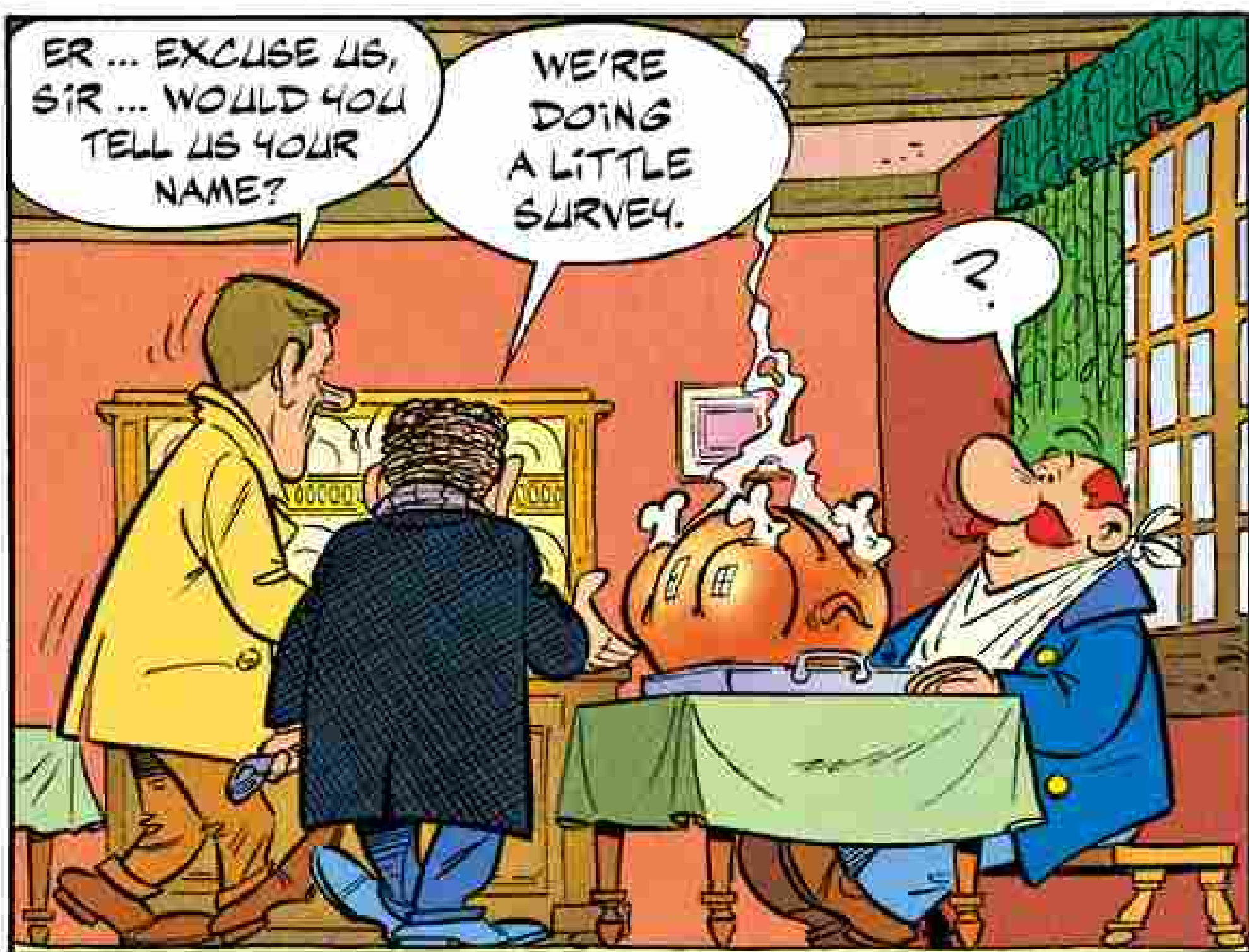
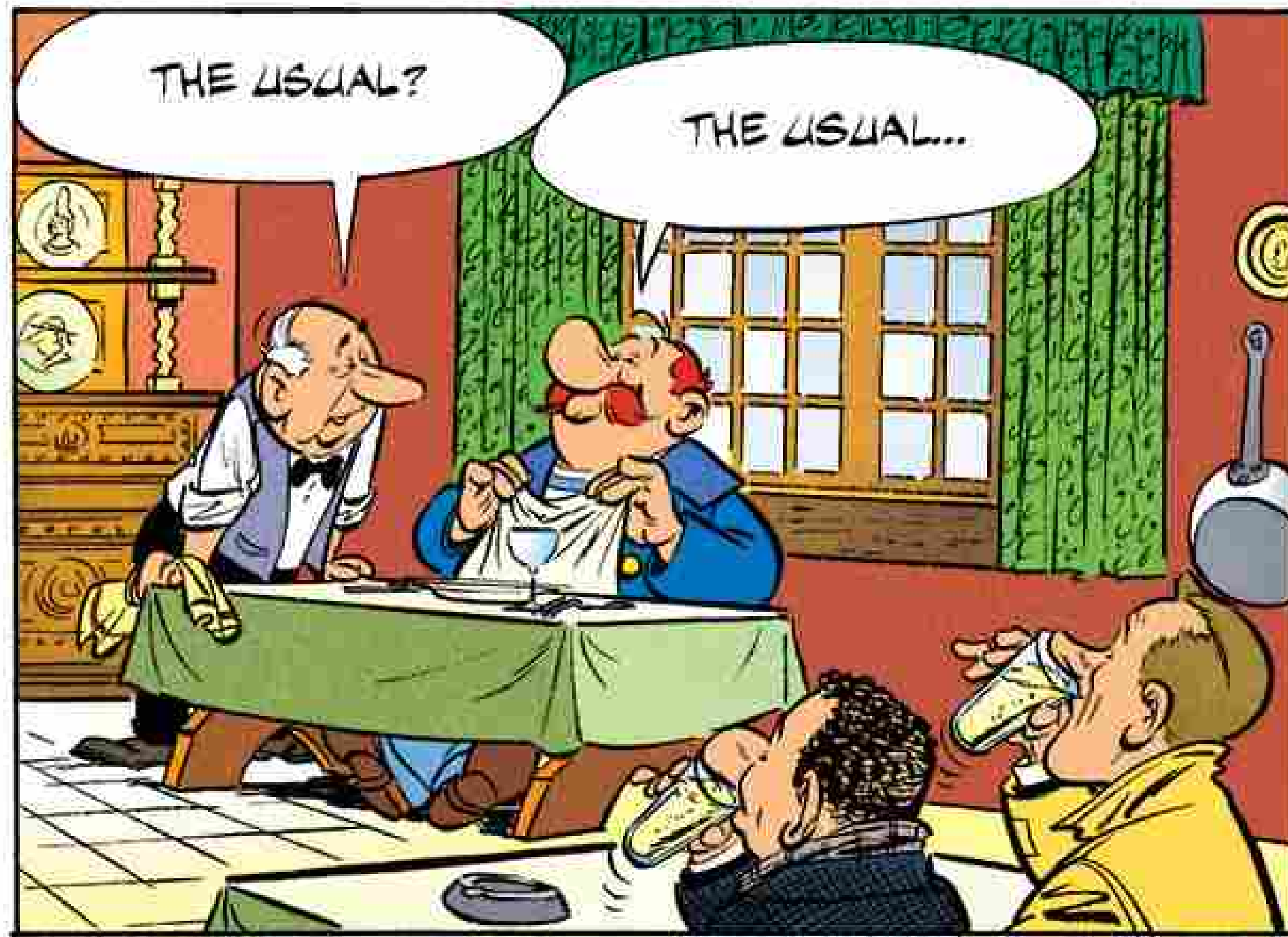
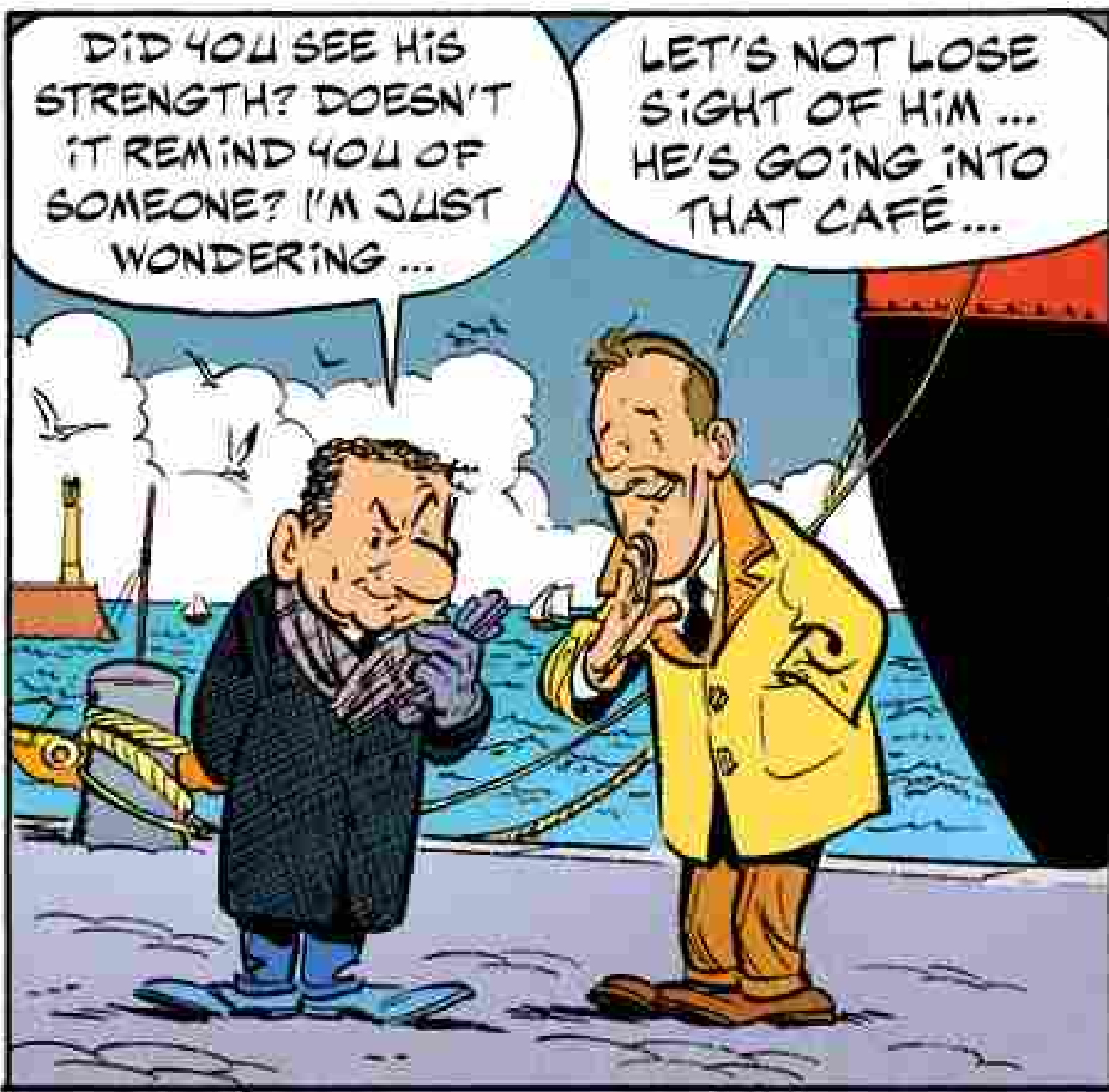
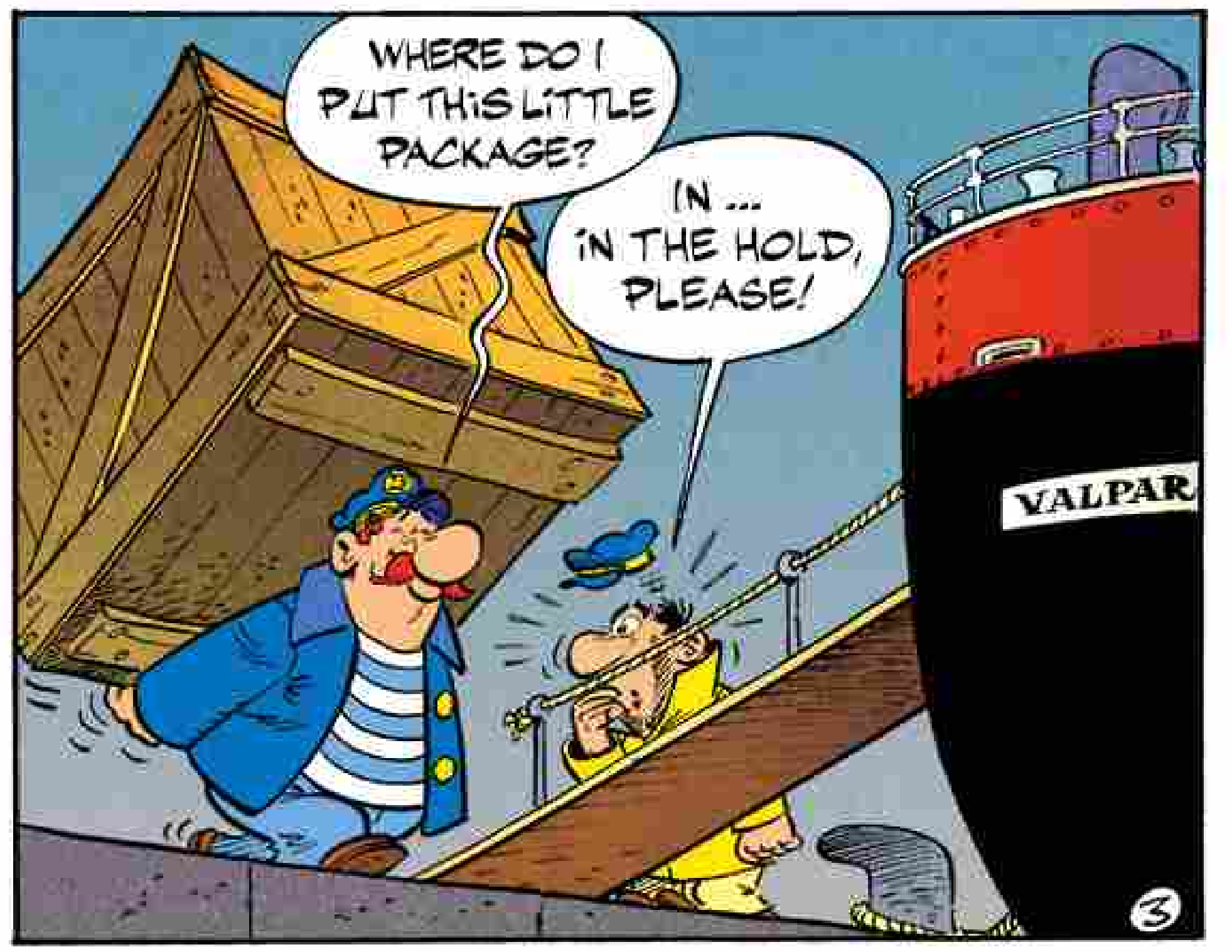
The Obelix family tree

07 February 1963

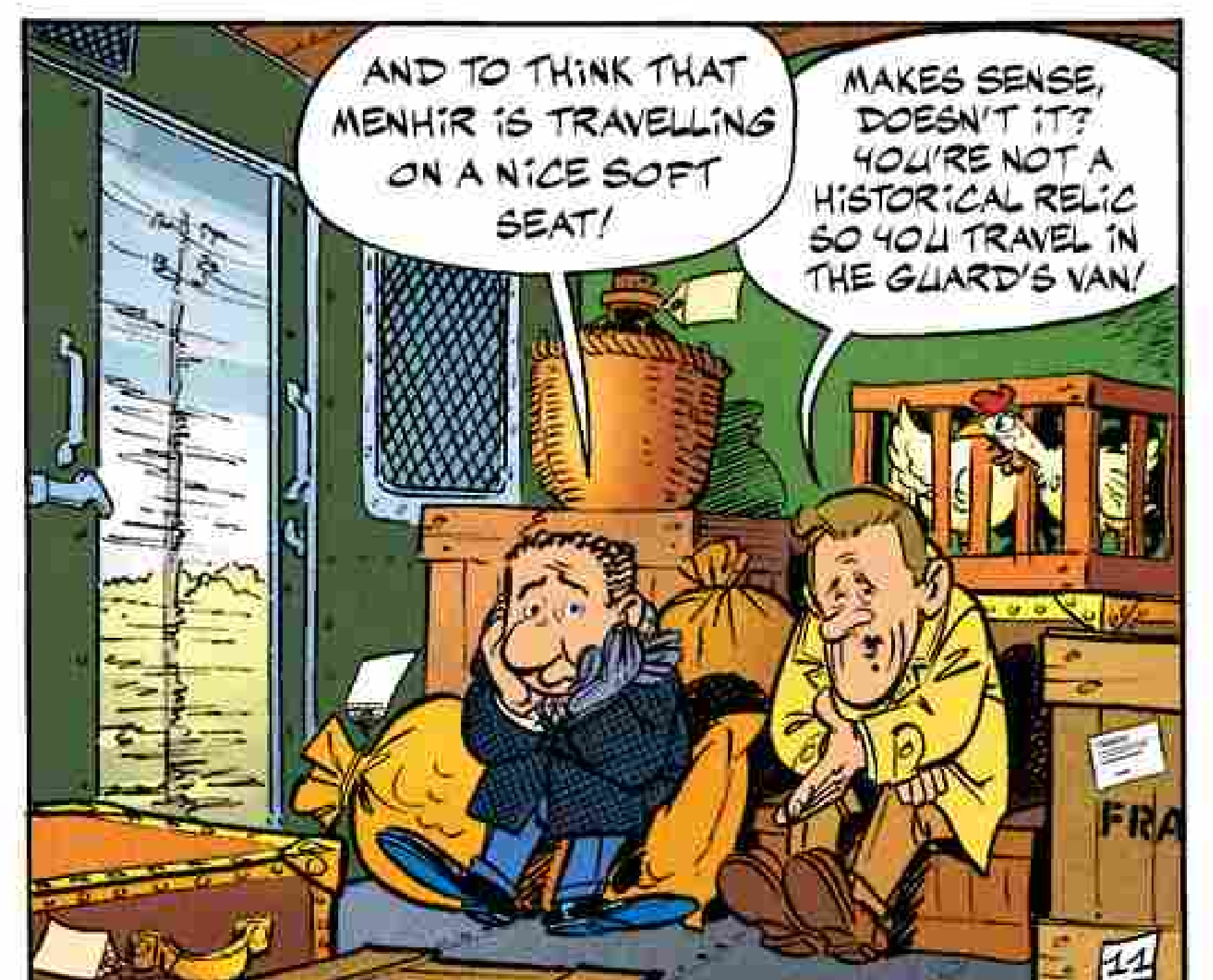
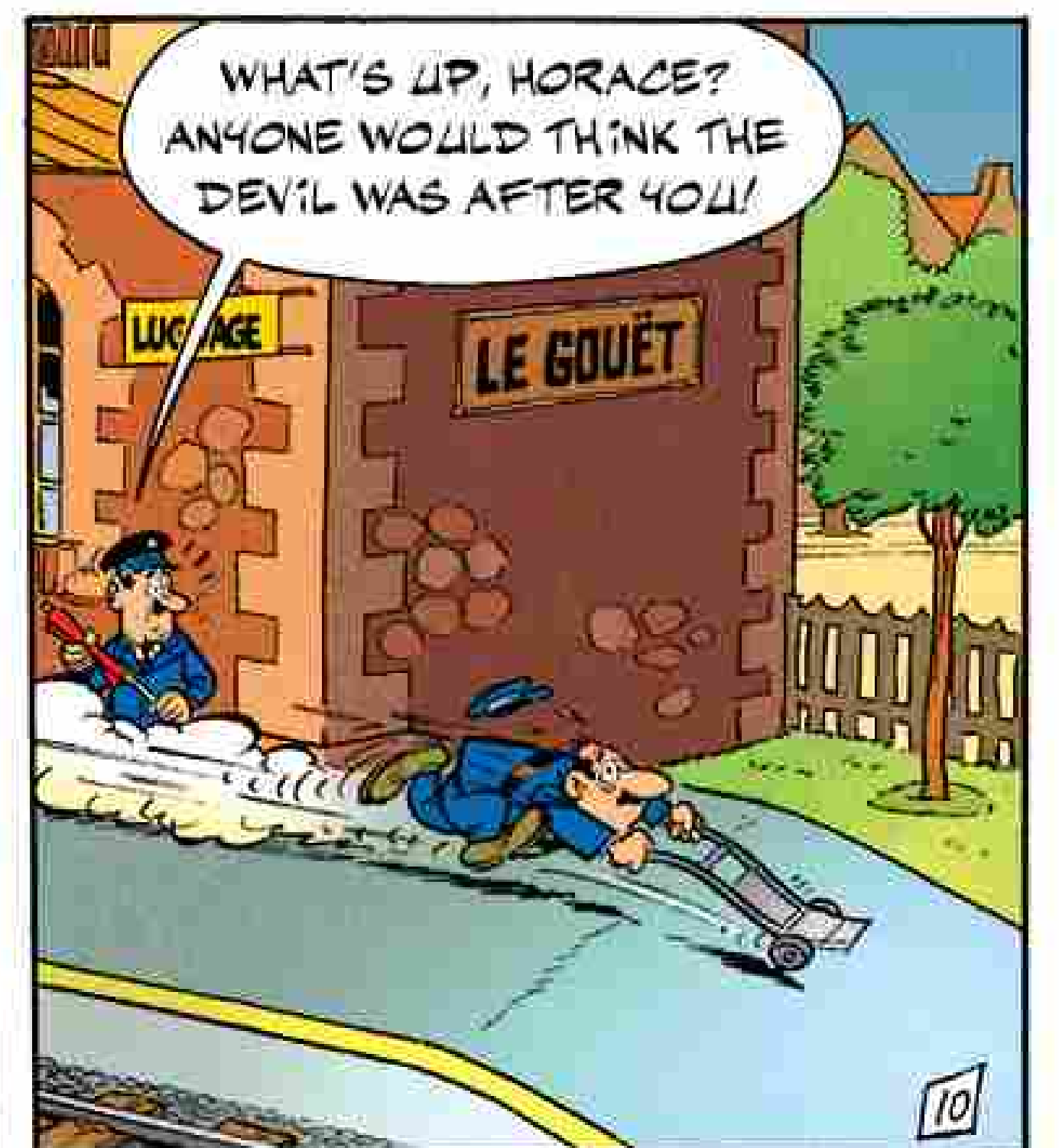
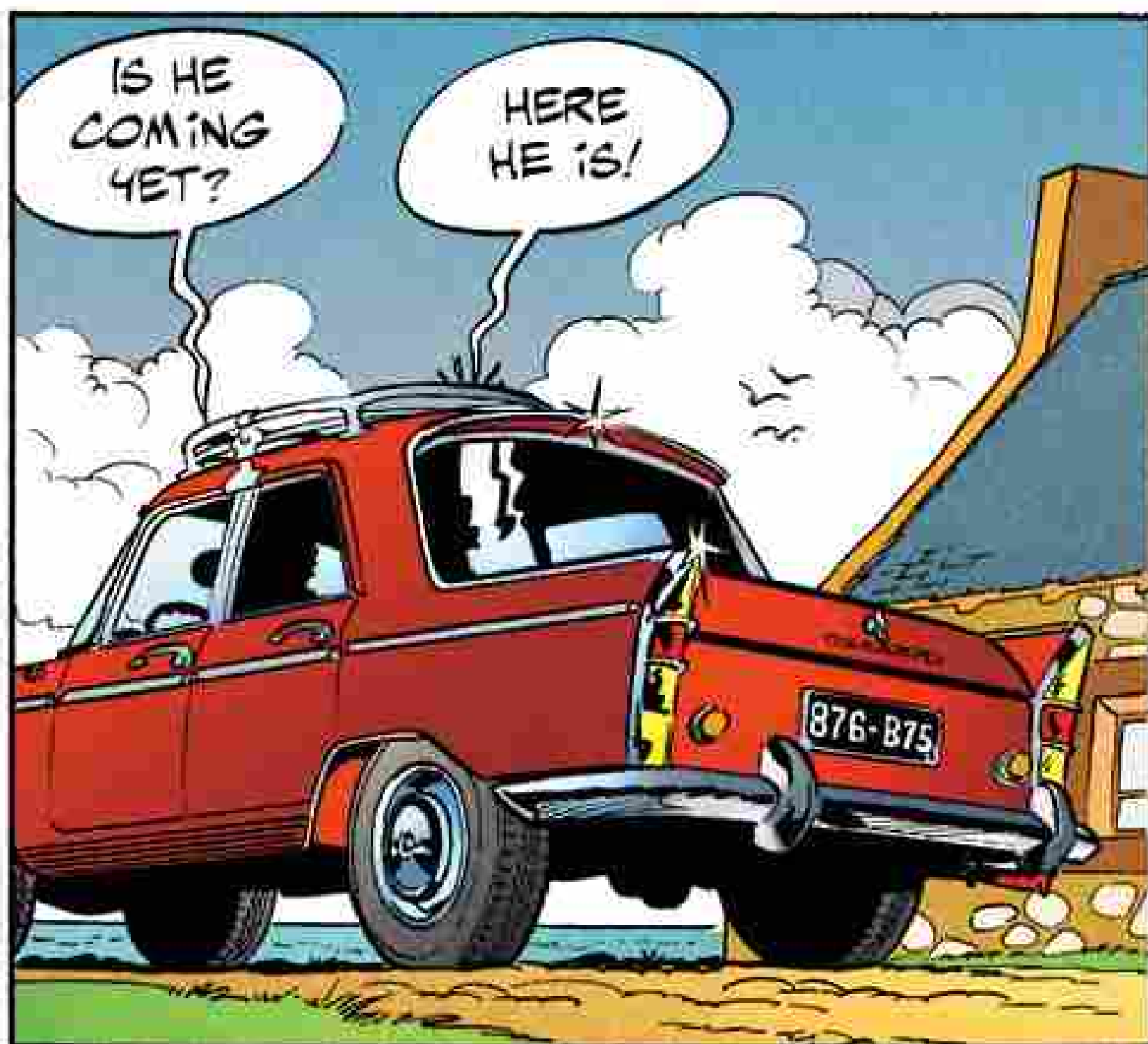
Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

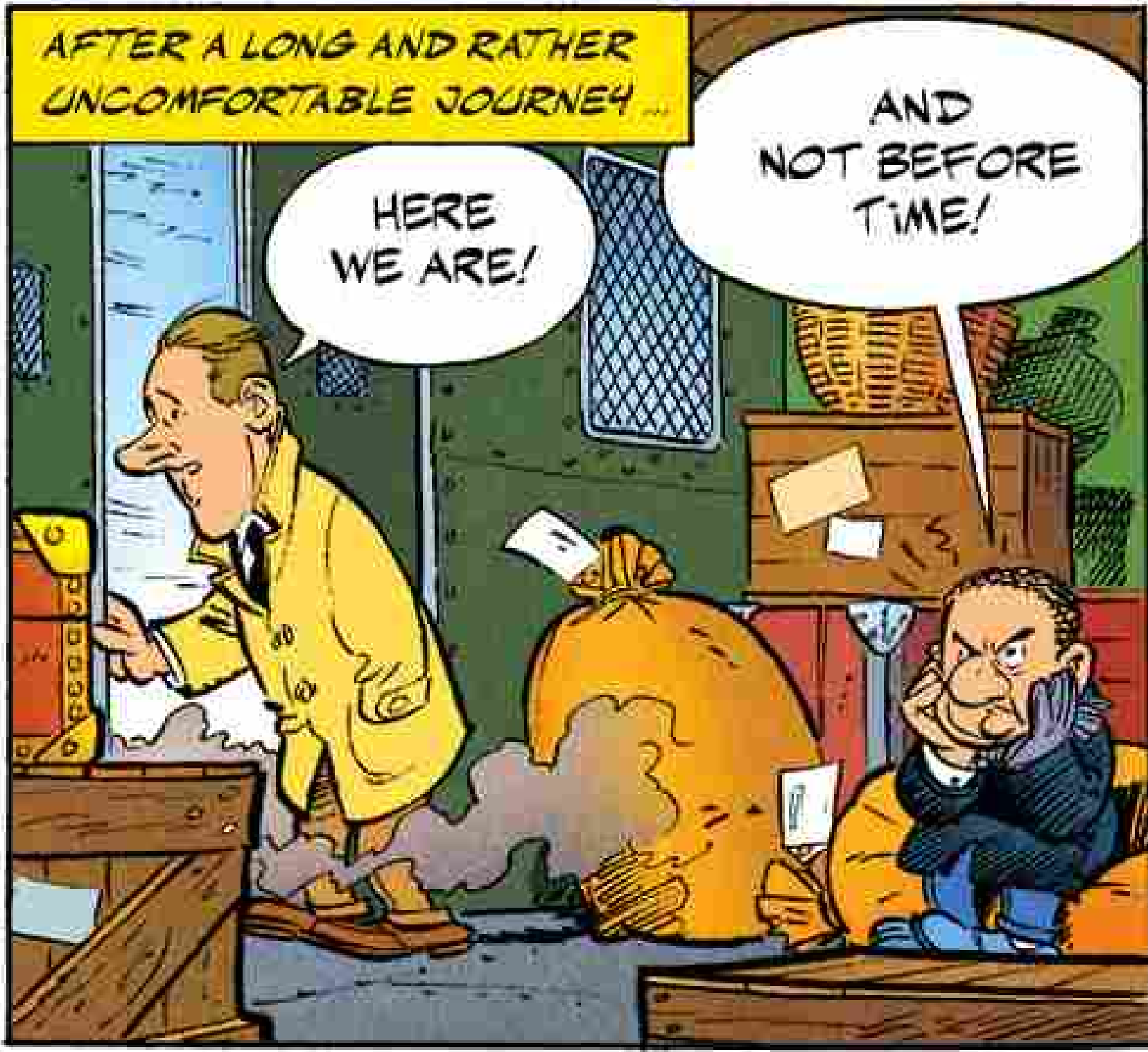
(This story was first published in 15 issues of "Pilote", nos 172-186)











THE END

How do they
think it all up?
August 1993

"What gave you the idea of Asterix?"
"Who writes the story and who does the drawing?"
"You must have been good at Latin at school, weren't you?"
"Who are you?"

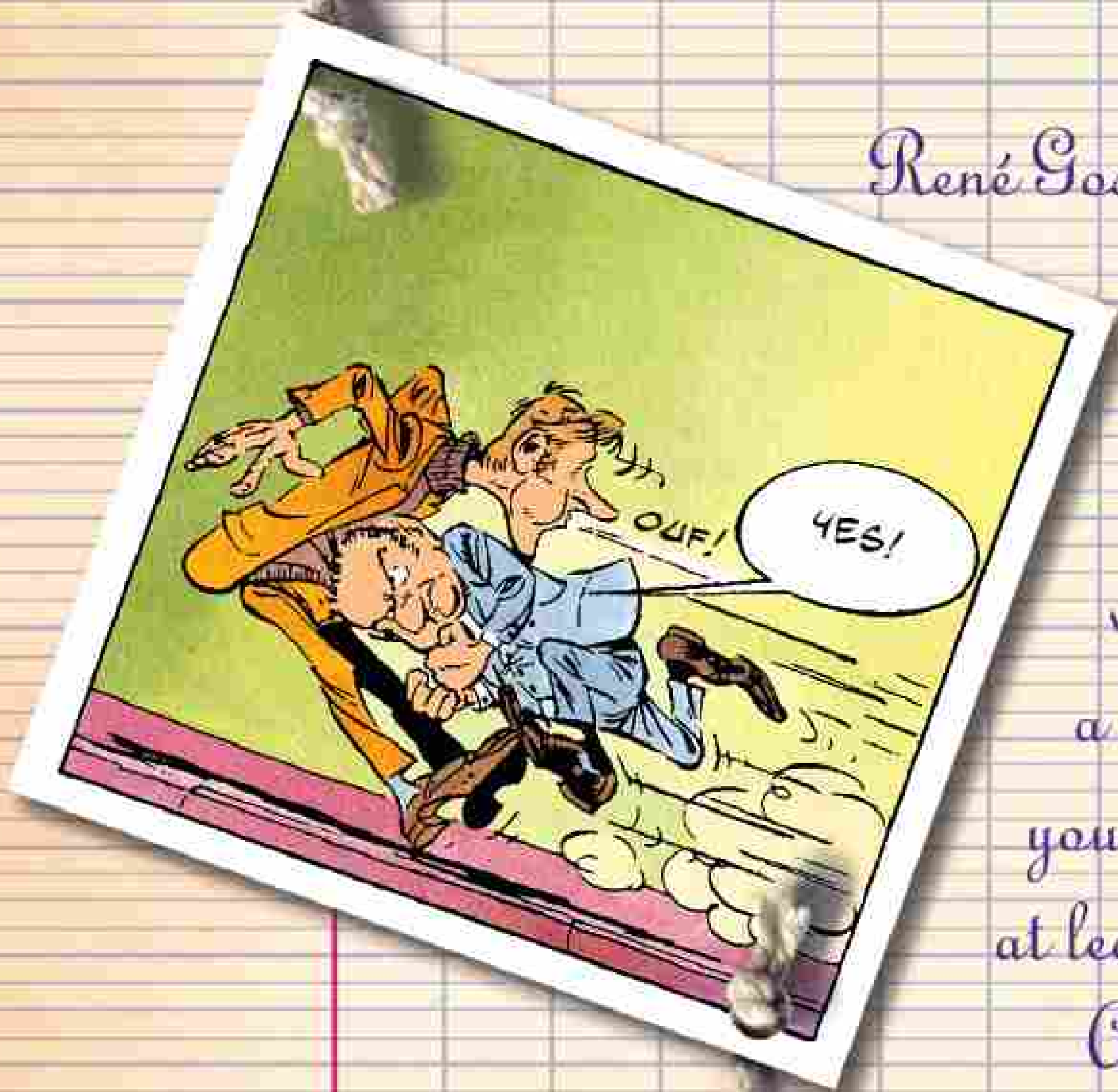
René Goscinny and I were often and regularly asked such questions, and I still have to answer them today, almost forty-five years after our character Asterix was born.

Some of the questions are not quite the same as those we were asked at first. For instance, "Do you actually make a living out of your little so-and-sos?" has become, "Hey, you must earn oodles of boodle with that lot, don't you?" Well, at least that may be a sign that our job has become more respectable.

And we have always appreciated the elegance, delicacy and attention some readers have shown towards us. Even in the 1960s, we liked responding in our own way in "Pilote", the thinking person's strip cartoon magazine, by answering the question of how an idea is born.

Dear readers, on the next page I offer the answer for your mature consideration, asking myself as always the eternal question, "Will they like it?"

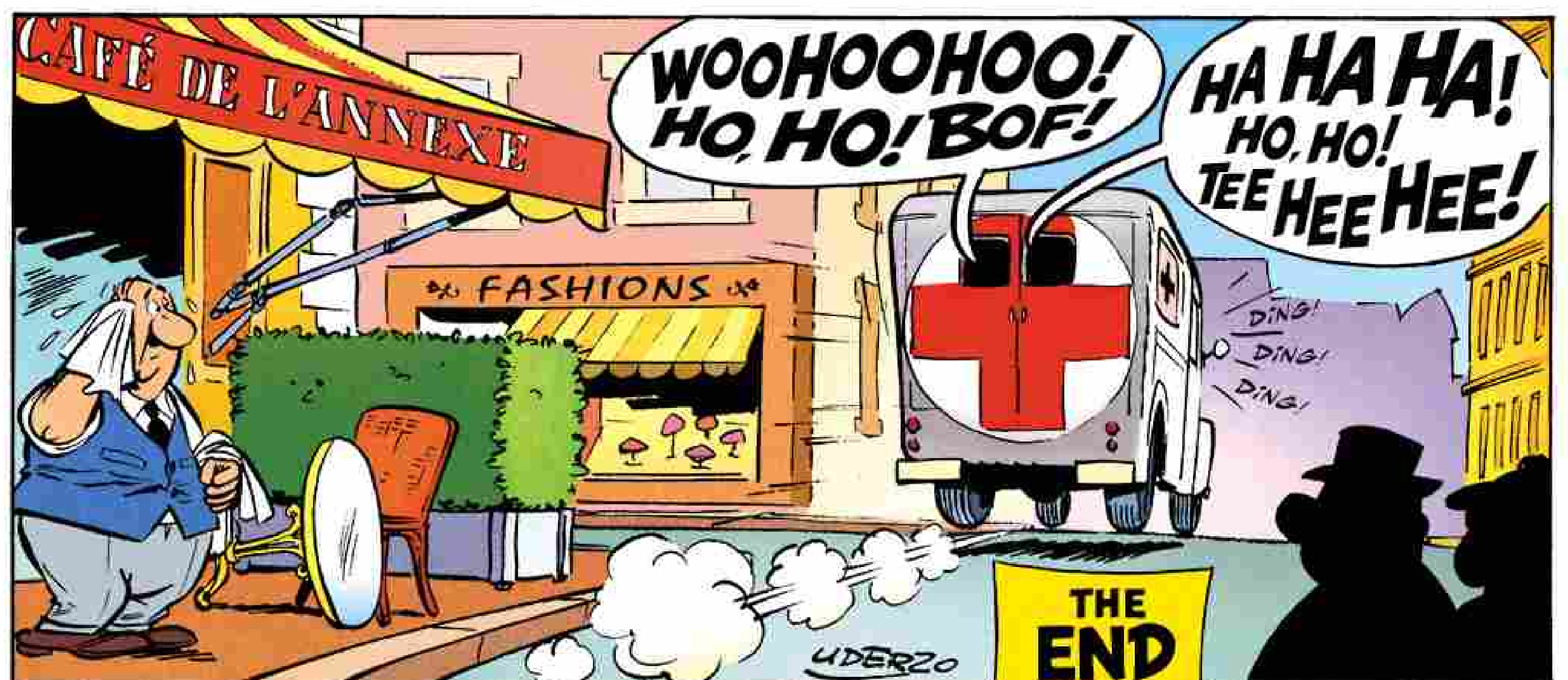
Albert Uderzo



The birth of an idea 25 October 1962

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

"Pilote", n° 157







I FEEL
A BIT WEAK,
GETAFIX ...

NO, OBELIX! YOU
ARE NOT HAVING ANY MAGIC
POTION! YOU KNOW VERY WELL
YOU FELL INTO THE CAULDRON
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, AND
IT HAD A PERMANENT
EFFECT ON YOU!

Vintage Asterix!

14 new stories
including tales of:

The day Asterix
and Obelix were born
(in the middle of a
village fish fight);

How Obelix goes back
to school;

Fashion in Ancient Gaul;

How Dogmatix helps the
village cockerel win a duel;

And how he is adopted as a
Roman mascot;

Asterix as you've never seen
him before;

Obelix's adventures under
the mistletoe;

The bid for the very first
Gaulish Olympics;

The birth of an idea - the story
of the creation of Asterix;

And much, much more.

